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Le Vaillant (François)











*Angus del.*

*Dangerous. Attack of a Tiger.*

T R A V E L S  
 FROM THE  
*CAPE of GOOD-HOPE,*  
 INTO THE  
 INTERIOR PARTS OF AFRICA,  
 INCLUDING MANY  
 INTERESTING ANECDOTES.

WITH ELEGANT PLATES,

Descriptive of the Country and Inhabitants :

INSCRIBED BY PERMISSION TO  
 HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MONTAGU.

---

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF  
<sup>LE</sup>  
*MONSIEUR VAILLANT.*

---

IN TWO VOLUMES.

---

VOL. I.

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L O N D O N :  
 PRINTED FOR WILLIAM LANE, LEADENHALL-STREET.

M DCC XC.



most humble acknowledgments, and at the same time avail myself of your GRACE's permission, to present a translation of Mons. VAILLANT's Travels. Conscious that if, on inspection, he should be found faulty in other respects, his fondness for science, and love of humanity, will sufficiently recommend him to your GRACE, in whom those characters so conspicuously unite.

I am well aware, that your GRACE's judgment will discover many imperfections ; an idea that would give me pain, were I not assured, that your GRACE's goodness

ness is even superior to your high rank.

Should Monf. VAILLANT succeed in amusing an hour of your GRACE's leisure, I shall deem the time passed in the translation amongst the most fortunate of my life.

I am, my LORD,

With the utmost respect,

Your GRACE's

Obliged, humble, and

Most obedient Servant.

ELIZABETH HELME.

*London, April 12th,  
1790.*



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# P R E F A C E

BY THE

*TRANSLATOR:*

**A**S there is a prefatory matter prefixed to the Work of Mons. VAILLANT; I should think it unnecessary to preface the Translation, did I not conceive it right to offer a few words of apology for a liberty I thought myself obliged to take, in some places, with the Author; I mean, curtailng a few repetitions.

I have done this the more willingly; from an assurance that nothing has been expunged that could be either an aid to Science, inform the Naturalist, or even gratify a laudible curiosity.

I have likewise softened (if I may be allowed the expression) a few passages that possibly might be accounted mere effusions of fancy and vivacity in a French author, but which would ill accord with the delicacy of a female translator, or indeed with the temper and genius of English readers, with whom *Monf. VAILLANT*, notwithstanding, bids fair to become a great favorite, as he unites a daring spirit of enterprise with another truly British Characteristic, namely Humanity.

As works of this kind are usually divided into chapters, I thought it would be most agreeable and convenient to the reader to adopt the usual mode; the titles, therefore, of each chapter, should be considered as the Translator speaking of the Author or his journey.



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# P R E F A C E,

B Y

*MONSIEUR VAILLANT.*

---

**T**HAT part of Guiana, under the Government of the Dutch West-India Company, is perhaps the least known to naturalists, though it is without dispute (of all South America) the spot that offers the greatest variety of curious productions. Placed under the burning climate of the torrid zone, five degrees North of the line, this region, yet enveloped in the mist of time, conceals (if I may so express it) the focus where nature forces her exceptions

to general rules. It has to an extent of an hundred leagues of Coast, a depth almost unlimited. Here the river of Surinam rolls its majestic course. On the left shore, three leagues from the sea, stands Paramaribo, the capital of this vast Colony, which is my native country, the cradle of my infancy. Educated by instructed parents, who laboured to procure themselves the interesting and precious objects that enrich this region, I had continually under my eyes their acquisitions, and enjoyed at ease the contemplation of a valuable cabinet, of which I shall hereafter have occasion to speak.

In my most early youth, my parents, who could not live without me, (though often undertaking tedious journeys to the farthest part of the colony) took me with them : Thus then my first steps were in the desert, and I was almost born a savage. When reason (which ever exceeds age in hot climates)

climates) began to dawn, my inclinations were presently developed, and my parents aided to their utmost these first indications of curiosity. Under such good preceptors I daily enjoyed fresh pleasures; they held dissertations suited to the level of my comprehension, on objects they had procured, or hoped to procure: a confusion of ideas at first perplexed me, which were by little and little reduced to order; thus nature, to whom all my studies pointed, deigned to be my first instructor.

Soon a desire of imitation, the favorite passion of infancy, gave impetuosity, I might say impatience to my amusements; flattered by self-love, I imagined I likewise ought to have a cabinet of Natural History, and without loss of time declared war against Caterpillars, Butterflies, *Scarabees* (a species of Beetles) and in a word, all sorts of insects.

When we labour, even on our own account, 'tis possible, by contracted means, with small skill and application, to make little progress; but I think those generally succeed who have neglected neither time, care, or trouble; those dispositions being almost certain to insure success. Every day I saw my collection of insects accumulate, which I valued beyond measure, as they were all of my own procuring.

Thus far all was enjoyment, I had not yet felt the obstacles that present themselves between enterprise and success.

In one of our excursions we had killed a Monkey, of the kind called in this country *Baboon*, it was a female, and carried a young one on her back, which was not wounded; we took them both up, and on our return to the plantation, the young one had not yet left the back of its mother,

ther, holding so fast that I was obliged to get the assistance of a negro to separate them, which we had no sooner affected, than, with the swiftness of a bird, it darted to a block, on which was a wig of my father's, and clinging round it appeared satisfied; I therefore let him continue, feeding him with goat's milk. He remained in this situation for three weeks when he abandoned his nurse, and became by his tricks and merry conceits the friend of the family.

I had without suspicion placed the wolf in the sheep-fold, for one morning as I entered my apartment, the door of which I had imprudently left open, I saw my unworthy pupil breakfasting on my superb collection: In my first transports of fury I could have strangled him, but rage soon gave place to pity, when I saw how dreadfully he was punished for his gluttony, having, in cracking the Scarabees, swal-  
a 4
lowed

lowed the pins on which they were stuck. His torments made me forget his fault, and I only thought of giving him succour, but my tears and all the art of the slaves could not save him from death. This accident threw me considerably back, but did not entirely discourage. I sought new discoveries, and not content with one treasure, wished to re-unite several. By a natural progression I now thought of birds, the slaves did not procure them to my liking, I therefore armed myself with a *Sarbacane*, (a tube to shoot with) and an Indian bow, which in some time I used with great skill, laying wait for whole days, it was now my former taste become a passion, that disturbed even my hours of rest, and which time daily strengthened.

Some friends have accused me of coldness and insensibility; a greater number have found the travels I have undertaken rash, but I readily forgive the first, and  
have



have nothing to say for the latter. Yet if they deign to glance an eye on the first pursuits of my infancy, this appearance of originality will occasion less surprize, when they find my education at once the cause and the excuse.

Some time after my parents, who had fixed their departure for Europe, anxious to be re-united to their relatives, having settled their affairs, embarked, attended by me, on board the Catharina; on the 4th of April, 1763, we weighed anchor and sailed for Holland. In the joy of my heart I partook of all the pleasure and projects of my parents, during the voyage, a curiosity natural to my age, added to my transports; but this agitation, or rather delirium, did not render me insensible of regret, I could not so soon become ungrateful, my eyes were often cast back to the country where I received my being, to the shores which gradually lessened to my sight,

fight, and as I approached the frozen climates of the North, a profound melancholy overwhelmed me, preyed upon my soul and dissipated the promised enjoyments of the future. After a dangerous voyage we cast anchor in the Texel, at nine or ten o'clock in the morning of the twelfth of July following.

Arrived in Europe, all I beheld was new to me; I shewed so much impatience, fatiguing every one with questions, all appeared so extraordinary, that I, myself, was an object of astonishment to all that surrounded me; notwithstanding, my importunity did not always give the laugh against me, for I paid amply, in keen remarks on America, the information I gained of Europe.

After some stay in Holland, we went to a city in France, where my father was born; I was now in the bosom of my family,



family, and my inclinations had full scope for gratification, in the cabinet of Monf. de Becoeur ; who, for the Ornithology of Europe, had the best and most numerous collection I have ever seen.

At Surinam I had a manner of skinning birds which answered well enough, but spoke little to the imagination, and yet less to the sight ; I knew no method then of preserving the skins, but placing them in large books : Here a new idea presented ; as well as preserving, I could make them retain their natural forms.— I determined to study this art particularly, and became a keen sportsman.

During a stay of two years in Germany, and seven in Lorraine and Alsace, I made prodigious havock among the birds. I was also willing to be acquainted with their manners, and the distinction of their various species ; and have often passed  
whole

whole weeks in watching, to procure myself a pair.

Thus then, in the space of eight or nine years, by care, trouble, and numberless attempts, I at length arrived at the art, not only of preserving these frail delicate creatures in their natural forms, but in that pure uninjured state, which constitutes the merit of my collection.

From long living among them, in fields, woods, and their most concealed retreats, I learned to distinguish the sexes in the most invariable manner, which though I do not consider as a very eminent merit, is the appendage of but a small number of Ornithologists. How often does it happen, that we see in very fine, and otherwise curious cabinets, forced divorces, and monstrous and unnatural alliances; in another place are classed, as male and female, two creatures who were never formed to meet;  
and

and a little further, a male and female, of the same species, are announced as different kinds. I gathered more and more information in this part of Natural History, which was far from contenting me ; I wished to act on a larger scale, when occasion seemed to call, and bid me defer it no longer.

In the Courant of 1777, a favourable circumstance conducted me to Paris ; like all other strangers that arrive, for the first time, in that capital, I carried my tribute of admiration to the cabinet of the learned and curious. I was dazzled and enchanted with the beauty, variety of forms, richness of colours, and the prodigious quantity of every species, which, by forced contribution, came from all quarters of the world, and are classed, methodically, in a space, unhappily, ever too limited.

During

During three years residence, I saw and studied all the important cabinets at this place ; these superb sights made me dissatisfied, and left a void in my heart. I saw this mass of foreign spoil, but as a general deposit, where the different beings were ranged without taste or choice ; giving no information to science, and without any certain indication of their manners or affections. It was the study which in my earliest youth had most interested me ; 'tis true, I knew several works on Natural History, but these were filled with palpable contradictions. I had read, with avidity, the immortal master-piece, consecrated to posterity by a great genius ; I daily offered incense at his shrine ; but his magic eloquence did not seduce me far enough to admire the flights of his imagination ; nor can I pardon in the philosopher the exaggerations of the poet.

Above

Above all, I thought particularly, that those parts of the globe which were unexplored, might give new information, and rectify the former errors ; looking on that man as supremely happy, who should have the courage to trace them to their source. The interior parts of Africa appeared, for that purpose, a Peru.—It was a virgin land.

Ingrossed with these ideas, I persuaded myself, that the ardour of zeal might supply genius. Enthusiasm whispered, I was the being for whom this privilege was reserved ; I listened to the pleasing seduction, from which moment I became devoted ; neither the ties of love or friendship were able to shake my purpose.—I communicated my projects to no one ; but inexorable and blind to every obstacle, left Paris the 17th of July, 1780.

# DIRECTIONS FOR PLACING THE PLATES.

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## ERRATA.

Page. Line.

VOL. I.

- 80 last line, after *friendship with* read *Mr. Gordon*  
 249 11 for *euology* read *eulogy*

VOL. II.

- 8 4 for *had not guns* read *had not such guns*  
 16 16 for *even* read *ever*  
 33 19 for *not* read *have*  
 45 9 for *dawn* read *down*  
 122 9 for *extempory* read *extemporary*  
 136 10 for *department* read *apartment*  
 139 2 for *incestious* read *incestuous*  
 141 13 for *megernefs* read *meagrenefs*  
 155 18 for *nigt* read *might*  
 169 3 for *prevade* read *pervade*  
 229 12 read *the melting or separating it from the oar they are strangers to*  
 242 20 for *impolite* read *impolitic*  
 289 12 for *Cois-puant* read *Bois-puant*  
 422 13 for *nefs* read *rest*. *ibid.* line 16 for *rest* read *nest*







# T R A V E L S

INTO THE

INTERIOR PARTS

OF

A F R I C A.

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C H A P. I.

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THE AUTHOR LEAVES FRANCE——VISITS  
AMSTERDAM——EMBARKS FOR THE CAPE OF  
GOOD-HOPE——ACCOUNT OF AN ENGAGEMENT  
AT SEA——ARRIVES AT THE CAPE.

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IMPATIENT to realize my project,  
I visited Holland, surveyed the prin-  
cipal cities of that famous republic, and  
their curiosities; Amsterdam contained  
treasures which even surpassed my idea.  
I was received with great kindness by the  
B . learned

learned men of that city, and permitted to inspect their cabinets : that which I most admired belonged to Minheer Temminck, treasurer to the India Company. Among his elegant collection, I noticed many things which I had never seen in France, and in the finest preservation. His superb aviary particularly, presented to the view, art and nature in combination to triumph over the climate. Here the eye was enchanted with admiration to behold, living, the most beautiful and rare birds, which by the cares bestowed on them build, breed and thrive as in their native country. This sight redoubled my former ardour, and determined me more than ever to conquer all obstacles and dangers that might obstruct my favorite design. M. Temminck honored me with distinguished friendship, it was particularly in his power to favor my intentions, these I had communicated to him, and he so much approved of them, that by his unwearied  
atten-

attention and kindness, I obtained leave to go to the Cape in a ship belonging to the company.

From my truly respected friend, I also received warm and generous recommendations, without which (as will be seen hereafter) I must have been cruelly embarrassed.

Having procured necessaries for so long a voyage, and likewise what would be useful in the interior parts of Africa, I took leave of my friends and Europe, and was by a Shallop conveyed on board the *Held Woltemaade*, lying in the Texel, bound to Ceylon, and also to touch at the Cape. The Captain was called S———V———. The wind proving contrary for our leaving the Texel, created a delay of eight days; during which time I learned that our ship was so named by the India Company, in memory of a glorious action

performed by an inhabitant of the Cape, named *Woltemaade*, who during a dreadful storm, with only the assistance of his horse, saved the lives of fourteen sailors that were shipwrecked in Table Bay; but was at length the victim of his own generous efforts, himself and horse in the last attempt perishing from fatigue and weariness, together with the pressure of the remainder of the unfortunate crew, who were fearful of his return to save them before the vessel went to pieces. Of this melancholy catastrophe, there is a particular description in Dr. Sparman's Voyage to the Cape.

The wind changing, we weighed anchor on the 19th December, 1780, at eleven in the morning, being the day before the declaration of war between England and Holland; had it happened twenty-four hours sooner, we had not been permitted to depart; how unfortunate should I then have

have been, all my plans broken, all my hopes void.

Tempestuous weather, and a thick fog, enabled us to pass the Channel without being perceived by the English; having gained the open sea, we sailed with the greatest security, fearless of danger, because unknowing that the fury of war raged. We continued following our consort, the Mercury, with whom we sailed from the Texel, and under whose command we were, without any remarkable occurrence for some time, but we were soon to experience a change.

As I had foreseen that in a voyage of four, or perhaps six months, I might expect some heavy time, I provided myself with a few books; among those on natural history and voyages, was one by *La Caille*, which at first much amused me, but one day meeting with a passage Anti-Philanthropic, and full of fa-

natism, I threw away my book, and determined to read no further ; this is the passage : “ The custom of chasing fugitive  
“ negroes like brute beasts, has nothing  
“ in it that should shock European sensibility ; for the moment men who should  
“ be useful members of the community,  
“ from a spirit of libertinism and cupidity,  
“ become the pests of society ; they degrade themselves below beasts, and deserve the most rigorous chastisement.”

But afterwards reflecting on the humane, kind and tolerant character which is so universally bestowed on this learned writer, I retook my book, and found the following reflections. “ But prejudice apart,  
“ should we prefer him who cultivates  
“ the arts, and invents exceptions contrary to the rules and laws of nature ;  
“ or he who content with the most simple, yet useful necessities, follows the  
“ maxims of strict and scrupulous equity?”

I now recollected that learning and science  
had



had been the ruin of *L'Abbe de la Caille*, before he had finished his journal, and deplored the ignorance of the editor in suffering a paragraph to appear which could never, in any manner, have escaped the pen of a priest, a philosopher, and a learned writer.

On the first of February, 1781, being three degrees North of the line, at break of day, we descried a sail in the horizon. It was a dead calm, and the Mercury almost out of sight. About nine, we could distinguish by the aid of our glassess a small vessel; which some thought French, others English, each forming different conjectures, reasoning in his own peculiar stile, and waiting for more certain information. We perceived some hours after, that it was towed by two shallops, and advanced fast towards us by the aid of oars: we now concluded it was a ship in distress coming

to entreat our assistance, and therefore let it advance without any hostile preparation. At three in the afternoon being within half gun shot, we hoisted our colours, and fired a gun with powder only: we were much surprised to receive in return a ball in our stern, which was followed by a broadside; the privateer, at the same time, hoisting English colours.

It would be a vain attempt to paint the astonishment and stupefaction that our whole crew were thrown into by this unforeseen adventure; there was not in our ship a single man who had ever seen an action; the Captain and his officers had been used to voyage peaceably, consequently they had never commanded on a like occasion: thus attacked, so unexpectedly, without time for preparation, or even to barricade the ship, horror and consternation was painted on the features of our men; the  
officers



officers bawling, the foldiers all raw recruits, that perhaps had never fired a gun; in fhort, no one anfwering, or underftanding a command. At feven we had not primed a gun; the privateer continued to cannonade, and threatened to fink us if we delayed ftriking; our Captain almoft convulſed with fear, exclaimed, it was not in his power to furrender without leave from the Captain of the Mercury, who was his Commadore; indeed the poor fellow's head was abſolutely turned.

At length, as if by miracle, the wind freſhened, and the Mercury drew near enough to hail our Captain, and demand why he had not fired? his anſwer was, he waited for orders, that it was ever the commander who gave the ſignal to engage. A laughable excuſe this in the mouth of a failor, attacked by a ſmall veſſel with only fixteen eight pounders, while he had thirty-two of heavier metal, beſides

fides pattereroes, three hundred men, and plenty of ammunition. The Mercury engaging the enemy, we likewise followed her example, notwithstanding she was between us and the English vessel, no matter! we now fired away—the confusion was favorable to our people, who tried to emulate each other—in drunkenness, running backward and forward without knowing where, some reeling and hollowing, others crying or swearing, the rest hiding themselves, even the chaplain (no doubt to inspire himself with courage) was guilty of the same excess; I saw him, with a lanthorn in his hand, going down to the powder room (which contained twenty-five thousand weight of powder, destined for Ceylon) and return, bringing without the least precaution, powder for cartridges; for, as I before observed, there had not been the least preparation made previous to the engagement, although we had so much warning.

We

We were abandoned by the enemy about eleven at night, and though they were soon at a distance, we still kept firing.—What a glorious moment for cowards!—who now walked the deck with firm step, talking loud, and daring their opponents, long since out of hearing. Notwithstanding this, fear was still predominant, no one daring to go to bed; like the rest, I passed the night in the open air, stretched on a sack, amidst a range of guns, every moment awaked by the vigilance of our watch, in whose affrighted ears, the English cannon still founded.

To give some idea of the disorder that reigned during our late action, it may be only necessary to add, that on an examination of the guns the day following, some were found filled to the mouth, containing even three charges of powder thrown on each other, and as many balls; several guns were charged first with bullets; in  
fine,

fine, had it not been for the Mercury, we had infallibly been taken; fortunately we were quit for a horrid fright only, for certainly nothing but fear could occasion such consternation among our officers, as to cause them to bear the cannonading of the enemy for four hours, without daring to risk a single fire. The English certainly thought we had no cannon, or that those they could not help observing were made of wood; for the least resistance on our part, must have made them give up the contest, and retire faster than they came.

I cannot finish this picture (truly worthy the sportive pencil of *Calot*) without mentioning a trait, that even at the time I write, forces me to smile; having no command in the ship, consequently no orders to give or receive during the fight; in the way to my cabin, I perceived the guardian of the company's papers faithfully seated by the mysterious box, ready to throw it  
into

into the sea on the least appearance of imminent danger. This man at least kept his post, but duty did not fix him there. Strongly as terror, which had almost mastered every other sensation. “Vaillant!” exclaimed he, “Vaillant! it is all over with us, alas my friend we are undone, we are lost.” I used my utmost efforts to encourage and engage him, at least not to appear so visibly alarmed; when, lo! at this moment, a ball rushed through the cabin with a horrid crash, with a groan equally terrific, down dropt my man, without sense or motion; at first I really thought him dead, but after a short time he rose from the ground, weeping and sobbing. This sorrowful scene was too much for me, and I was obliged to quit the cabin to hide the laughter I could not suppress.

How ridiculous must this dastardly conduct appear in men, whose situation, age  
and



and experience, should rather render them examples of honour and bravery ; more especially when we reflect that a little exertion would have dissipated all danger, and reduced to nothing so weak an enemy : their behaviour as men seemed to me still more pitiful, on reflecting that even boys, on similar occasions (though scarcely able to hold a cable) have given frequent instances of zeal, courage and intrepidity ; nay, what was yet more disgusting, though at the same time somewhat diverting, the day after they seemed thoroughly convinced that the English ship must have sunk in consequence of their terrible cannonade ; and the compliments the officers paid each other on the score of courage, were truly laughable. As I was well convinced the English had not received a single shot of ours, I could not help joking them, and communicated my thoughts on this business to the first pilot, *Van Groenon*, whom I had observed to be-  
have

have as daftardly as the beft during the action, and who now gave himfelf as many airs of courage and prowefs. The common failors laughed in their fleeves, it was not loft on *Van Groenon*, who, however, put as good a face as poffible on the matter, and contented himfelf with his own approbation, and that of his brother brag-garts; to crown the work our Dr. Engel-brecht, who during the action had hid himfelf in the bottom of the hold, was ordered to draw up an account of this glorious engagement. I took the liberty to rally the writer, as I had done the reft; I did not fear his revenge, as I had the happinefs to enjoy a good ftate of health. As for the pilot, he revenged himfelf for my jefts, by making the voyage as difagreeable as he could, but this I little regarded, as it was not to be of long duration; for exclusive of the *puiffant fea fight*, our voyage was fortunate, the wind continuing fo favorable, that in three months and ten



ten days from our departure, we discovered the mountains at the Cape, and the weather being clear and fine, I took a sketch of the shore and road as they first presented themselves to my view.

C H A P.

## C H A P. II.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CAPE, AND ITS INHABITANTS, WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE SOUTH-EAST WIND THERE, &c.

WE anchored the same day in Table Bay; soon after which *Le Capitaine de Port* Minheer *Staring* came on board; he informed us of the declaration of war, which news had been brought them by a French frigate. The next day I landed, being impatient to pay my respects to those to whom my letters recommended me. I was received with distinguished

VOL I,                      C                      guished

guished politeness ; M. Boers, Fiscal, and M. Hacker, treated me with every mark of friendship and esteem ; I felt that I did not owe this to superficial ceremony and complimentary grimace, which is too commonly made use of instead of the open and generous pleasure of serving our fellow creatures, and in reality, is only a perfidious art, the more securely to deceive a credulous stranger. They offered me all the services that my recommendations, or their distinguished rank could procure ; I trusted to their honor, they were Hollanders, and scorned to deceive me.

I was impatient to explore this new country, whither I seemed transported as in a dream, every thing to my idea wore a pleasing aspect, and my eyes already wandered over the vast desert, which I was about to explore.

The

The town of the Cape is situated on the declivity of the Table and Lyon mountains, which form a natural amphitheatre that reaches to the sea ; the streets though wide are not commodious, being ill paved ; the houses, almost all built uniform, are spacious and handsome, the tops covered with reed, as heavier roofs might occasion accidents during the high winds. The inside contains no frivolous luxuries ; the furniture is simple, yet neat and handsome ; they use no hangings ; pictures, and looking glasses are the principal ornaments.

On entering the town by the way of the Castle, the eye is presented with a number of elegant buildings. On one side the whole length of the gardens belonging to the Company. On the other, the fountains, whose waters descend from Table-Mountain by a channel, which may be seen from the town, and every part of the road. This water is excellent, and abundantly

dantly supplies the inhabitants, as well as the vessels that touch at the Cape.

In general the men appeared well made, the women charming; I was surprized to see the stile in which they dressed, with all the minuteness and elegance of the French ladies; but they have neither their air or grace. As it is ever the slaves who suckle the children, a familiarity ensues that is highly prejudicial to their future manners and education; the latter, in men, seems in general still more neglected, if we except those who are sent to Europe for that purpose, there being no masters at the Cape, but those who teach writing.

The women in general play on the harpsichord; they likewise love singing, and are distractedly fond of dancing, so that a week seldom passes without their having several balls; the officers belonging to the ships in the Road, frequently pro-

procure them this amusement. At my arrival, the governor had a custom of giving a public ball once a month, and the people of distinction in the town followed his example.

In a colony where so many strangers are continually arriving, I was astonished to find neither coffee-house nor tavern; but the truth is, every private house answers that purpose. The usual price for board and lodging is a piaſtre a day, (four and six-pence English) which is sufficiently dear, if we consider the scarcity of money in this country. While I was there butchers meat was very cheap; I have seen thirteen pounds of mutton bought for an escalin; (eleven-pence English) an ox for 12 or 15 rix dollars; (at six shillings and nine-pence English, the rix dollar) ten quarters of corn for 14 or 15 Rix-dollars, and other things in proportion. It is true that during the war, every thing was



raised to an extraordinary price, and toward the end of it, they gave 45 Rix-dollars for a sack of miserable potatoes; notwithstanding this enormous rise, the usual price of board was not advanced. Fish is very plenty at the Cape, among those in greatest estimation, they distinguish the *rooman*, a red fish found in False Bay; the *klepvis*, which is without scales, and taken among the rocks on the sea shore; the *steenbraasfen*, the *stompneus*, and some others; but I should observe that these excellent ones only make their appearance at polite tables. Oysters are very scarce, they are only found in False Bay; eels are still scarcer, and I never saw any lobsters.

One must go several miles from the Cape to procure any game, those most common are the *steenbock*, the *duyker*, the *reebock*, the *gryfbock*, and the *bontebock*; these are all different species of Gazells, (of which I shall speak more fully in my  
de-



description of the quadrupeds) the hares, particularly that small kind which they call *lièvre de dune*, or down hare, are very numerous.

There are likewise several sorts of partridges, some large, others small; some more delicious than ours, others less so; the quail and woodcock differ not from those of Europe. They are only seen there during their passage.

Whatever the enthusiasts of the Cape may say, it seems to me that the European fruits have much degenerated there, I saw nothing I thought delicious except the grape. Cherries are both scarce and bad; pears and apples not much better, and will not keep; to balance this, the citrons and oranges (especially the sort called *naretyes*) are excellent; the figs delicate and wholesome, but the small banana, (otherwise called the pisan) is ill tasted. Is it not surprising

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prising that so fine a country, under so pure a sky, (if we except some insipid berries) should produce no fruits natives of the soil? Neither asparagus nor artichoke grows at the Cape, but all other European vegetables seem naturalized, and are gathered all the year, if the south-east wind (which blows during three months) does not dry the earth in such a manner as to render it incapable of all kind of culture. This wind rages with such fury, that in order to preserve the plants, they are obliged to make a fence of hornbeam, round each division of the garden. They take the same care of the young trees, but notwithstanding all their precaution, they never put out branches on the side next the wind, and always incline in an opposite direction, which gives them a very disagreeable appearance; in general it is very difficult to rear them.

I have

I have often been witness of the ravages made by this wind. In the space of twenty-four hours, the best cultivated gardens are sometimes laid waste; it rages most from January to April, about the Cape, and much earlier up the country. In the course of my travels, my waggons were several times overset by it, and I frequently had no means to prevent this, but by fastening them to trees. This wind announces itself at the Cape by a small white cloud, which at first rests on the top of Table Mountain, on that side next the Devil Mountain, the air soon begins to freshen; by degrees the cloud augments, enlarging in such a manner that the whole summit appears covered; at this time they usually say, "*the mountain has put on its perriwig;*" it now sinks rapidly; and hovering over the town, seems to threaten it with an immediate deluge; as it approaches the foot of the mountain, it begins to disappear, to evaporate and reduce

duce itself to nothing; the sky continues uninterruptedly calm and serene; the mountain alone appears in mourning, which shrouds it from the radiance of the sun.

I have often passed the whole morning in examining this phenomenon without being able to comprehend the cause; but after I had frequented False Bay, on the other side of the mountain, I have often taken pleasure in observing the beginning and progress of it. The wind at first blows very feebly, gently driving before it a sort of mist, which seems to detach itself from the surface of the sea; this mist collects, and pressed together by means of the obstacle it finds in its passage on the South side of Table mountain, not being able to free itself, heaps up by degrees, till it is elevated to the summit; it then exhibits to the town that small white cloud which announces the wind, which in fact, has begun to blow some hours

hours before on the sides of the mountain, in the road, and parts adjacent. The general duration of this kind of storm is three days successively, sometimes it continues without intermission much longer; it often likewise ceases all at once, the atmosphere then becomes extremely sultry; and, if during three months (the time it usually prevails) it should happen in this manner to have several sudden intermissions, it is a certain prognostic of a great deal of sickness.

Though this wind is not absolutely dangerous to shipping, instances are not wanting of its ill effects on several; and when it becomes too impetuous, it is prudent, in order to avoid an accident, to gain the open sea; when it does not bear the mists, it only blows in the road, and is of no consequence in the town, for it is only a vast collection of these fogs rushing violently along that occasions those terrible hurricanes

canes which they sometimes experience, and which render it almost impossible to walk in the streets: and notwithstanding the exactitude and care, with which they shut their doors and windows, the dust at this time penetrates even into their cupboards and trunks. Whatever inconveniences may accompany it, this wind is of infinite service to the town, by purging it of those noxious vapours which arise from the filth that is naturally collected about the sea coast, from what the inhabitants throw out, but above all, from the offal exposed by the company's butchers, who neither make use of the heads, feet, nor entrails of the animals which they kill, leaving them in heaps at the doors of their slaughter houses, where they corrupt and impoison both the air and the inhabitants, fomenting those epidemical distempers which are but too common at the Cape, especially when the South East wind has not been very violent.

The



The most cruel and dangerous disease at this place is the fore throat. People of the most robust constitutions frequently fall victims to this malady in three or four days. It is a sudden and violent stroke which gives no warning.

The small-pox is another scourge to these colonies. This part of the globe was a stranger to it till the arrival of the Europeans; but since it has been under the dominion of the Dutch, this disorder has brought it to the very brink of destruction; particularly when it first made its appearance, it swept off more than two thirds of the Colonists.

Its ravages were still more dreadful among the Hottentots; it seemed as if this malady attacked them in preference to others, and even now they are extremely subject to it.

At

At present all vessels on their arrival in the road, are scrupulously examined by the surgeons belonging to the company, and if they discover the least vestige of this disorder, all communication with the inhabitants is most rigorously forbidden ; an imbargo is laid on the cargo, of which they will not suffer the smallest article to be landed, and they keep day and night a very strict guard over them.

If it should be known that a Captain had concealed this malady on board his ship, he and his officers would be degraded on the spot, and condemned to pay a very heavy fine, if the vessel belonged to the company.

I have said *his officers*, because every one of them being accountable for the share of command he has on board, it would be impossible to conceal the contagion without the unanimous consent of  
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the whole crew. If a foreign ship should be in these circumstances, nothing could possibly save it from confiscation.

The rainy season usually commences about the end of April. It is more abundant and more frequent in the town than in its environs; the natural reason of which is, the North wind at the Cape has the same effect that the South-West has in France; it brings a great number of clouds with it, which as they approach the town, are encountered and broken by the Table, Devil, and Lion mountains. At this time it rains without intermission at the Cape, though at two leagues distance all round they enjoy a clear sky and dry weather.

Sometimes the rain spreads over the whole space between Table Bay, and False Bay, to the East of that chain of enormous mountains which extend themselves to the very point of Africa, while the  
Western

Western side is clear and without a cloud.

This is a feeble image of what happens on the coasts of Coromandel and Malabar, except that here this spectacle is more wonderful, because, being nearer, it is more obvious. -

Suppose two friends were to set off from the town at the same instant for False Bay, he that takes the East side of the mountain should carry his *paraplue*, while he that takes the West would have occasion for his *parasol* : they arrive at the place of rendezvous, the one fatigued with heat, and panting under the burning ray ; the other frozen with cold, and dropping with rain.

Strangers are generally well received at the Cape by those who are in the service of the company, and by some other individuals,

duals, but the English are adored there; whether it is that there is some analogy in the manners of the two nations, or rather that they affect a great portion of generosity.

Thus much is certain, that the inhabitants of the Cape are eager to offer them their lodgings. In less than eight days every thing in the house is English; the master, mistress, and children, intirely adopting the manners of their inmates. At table for instance, they never fail to make the knife perform the office of the fork. Of all nations the French are the least esteemed here; the common people in particular cannot endure them. This hatred is carried to such a length, that I have frequently heard the inhabitants aver, they would rather have been taken by the English, than have owed their safety to the French arms. At that time I took these

discourses for an exaggeration, and thought these people made light of command, in order to lessen the value of those services which France had actually rendered them, and in the same proportion the debt of gratitude due on that account. Whatever may have occasioned this, I believe the French would have found great reason to complain of this colony, had it not been for some leading people, whose prudence checked the murmurs of the multitude, while their obliging and essential services in every circumstance that could possibly occur, balanced in some measure this unjust and ungrateful dislike.

These worthy men are not unknown to the French minister, who has honored them with two letters of acknowledgment on the part of his sovereign: and who would not render his tribute of praise to the noble and disinterested conduct of M. *Boers*, fiscal, or forget to cherish the memory of  
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it in his heart? for my part, I render him the most pure and sincere homage. May this truth that escapes me, while it pains his modesty, spread as it ought, the knowledge and remembrance of his virtues !

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### C H A P. III.

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DEPARTURE FOR AND DESCRIPTION OF SAL-  
DANHA BAY—VISITS SCHAAPEN AND MONKEY  
ISLANDS—THE CACHALOT DESCRIBED.

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THE news of the rupture between England and Holland, which had reached the Cape before our arrival, with the assurances we gave that the English

were not idle, made them entertain the liveliest apprehensions of a visit from the enemy; in consequence of which, the government judged it necessary to make some preparations, and that the vessels in the Road, and in Table Bay, should immediately take refuge in the bay of Saldanha, where they would stand some chance of escaping the researches of the English; and orders to this effect were dispatched to each of the Captains. This event seemed to favour the prosecution of my designs; accordingly I proposed departing with the fleet. M. *Vangenck*, who commanded the *Middelbourg*, had the complaisance to offer me a very agreeable accommodation on board his ship, with every facility to prosecute those researches which I had in meditation, when we should arrive at the bay. I accepted his offers of service, with feelings of the most lively gratitude, got my effects on board, and on the tenth of May we hoisted sail in company with four  
other

other vessels, and the next day cast anchor at *Saldanha*.

On the entrance of this bay, on the right hand side, it indents itself in a diagonal direction for the space of seven or eight leagues; on the opposite side near the mouth, there is a small creek called *Hoetjis Bay*. Ten or twelve sail may find anchorage in this place on a good bottom: it is easy for lighter vessels to go further up, to a little isle, called *Schaapen Island*, where they are sheltered from all winds.

The water here is much inferior to that at the Cape, but during the monsoons, it changes its nature and becomes excellent. The country people bring all sorts of provisions to the ships which visit this place at a much lower price than at the Cape town; so that a ship sailing from Europe, and prevented by the South-East winds from making Table Bay may gain that

of *Saldanha*, and be sure of finding refreshments in abundance.

The Company maintains a trifling post at this place, consisting of a few men under the command of a corporal, who, when he perceives a ship at the mouth of the Bay, sends an express by land with advice of it to the governor at the Cape.

The *Cachalots* (a sort of whale, which the Dutch call *noord-kaaper*) are very numerous, and continually playing in this bay. I have frequently shot at them when they have raised themselves above the surface of the water, but it never seemed to have the least effect on them.

We found a prodigious quantity of rabbits on *Schaapen-Island*; it became our warren, and was an excellent resource for our crews. All sorts of game abound in its environs, especially the little gazells  
called

called *Steenbock*; with all those I have before specified. Partridges and hares are likewise met with here, but the difficulty of walking over this deep sandy coast, renders hunting very difficult and fatiguing. Panthers are very common, but they are not so fierce as in many other parts of Africa; because the game furnishing them with plenty of provision, they are not drove to extremities by hunger.

Some days after my arrival, the commander of the before-mentioned post invited me to hunt with him. The next day we actually set out. We saw plenty of game, but at such a distance that our shot would not reach them. Towards evening, by accident, I got separated from my companion.

Chance now seemed resolved to familiarise me all at once, with the dangers I had come so far in search of. At a time

when I had not the least idea of it, I experienced them rather abruptly, and in a manner that might have made the bravest tremble.

The report of my piece had startled a young gazelle ; I thought my dog was in quest of it ; he stopped at a large clump of bushes, began to bark violently, and kept running perpetually round them. I made no doubt but the gazelle had taken refuge there, and hastened to the spot in hopes of killing it. My presence and voice greatly encouraged my dog, and I expected every moment to see it make its appearance ; tired with waiting, I entered myself among the bushes, beating them on all sides of me with my fowling piece, in order to facilitate my passage. It is impossible to express the horror and surprise that froze me, when in the centre of the thicket, I encountered, face to face, an enormous and furious panther ! His  
nan-



manner the moment he saw me—his eyes glaring—his neck extended—his mouth half open—his hollow growling, which seemed to announce my immediate destruction—I already thought myself devoured!

The intrepidity of my dog saved me; he kept the animal at bay, who seemed unable to decide between his fear and rage. I retired softly till I had gained the edge of the thicket; my faithful dog followed my example, and seemed resolved to perish with his master. I regained the open plain, and lost no time in recovering the post road, though not without frequently looking behind me; mean time, I heard at a distance, and at intervals, the report of a musket. I made no doubt but it proceeded from my companion, who was seeking me. It was night, and I had no inclination to join him. It was late before he returned. His surprise equalled his

his joy on finding me safe and well. He had supposed from hearing the barking of my dog, that I was attacked by some tyger or hyæna, and as I did not answer his firing, concluded I was torn to pieces.

When I related my adventure, it occasioned a great deal of laughter; and from his account of what I should have done in this predicament, I regretted that I had not endeavoured to kill the animal; but I was unacquainted with countries infested with wild beasts; this was the first I had encountered, and I was totally ignorant in what manner I should have dealt with it. Thus I employed my leisure hours, and accustomed myself insensibly to the greatest dangers.

We often resorted to *Schaapen-Island* to shoot rabbits. In one of these excursions, (which till now had proved extremely  
plea-

pleasant) we were in the most imminent danger; on a sudden a *Cachalot* raised itself up so near our shallop as to give us the greatest apprehensions for our safety, lest in falling it should overwhelm us with its enormous weight. Some of the sailors leaped over-board, but the man at the helm put about so opportunely that we avoided the danger. The monster reared itself at least twelve feet above the surface of the sea, and on replunging into the water, threw up such a quantity as wet us all over. Our shallop received so violent a shock that we were apprehensive of its sinking, and had it not been for the pilot's presence of mind, it is certain that none of us should have escaped death.

The *Cachalot* is ordinarily from sixty to eighty feet long, sometimes longer, and it frequently raises itself half its length out of the water, and when this heavy  
mass

mass falls again it makes a noise like the sound of a cannon.

One night while we were at supper, our vessel had so extraordinary and convulsive a motion, that, not knowing what to think of it, we hastily quitted the table and ran to the deck; the alarm was general on board; *Vangenepe* thought we had dragged our anchors, and drifted against a rock, but convinced by the situation of the other vessels, that we had not changed our position, he immediately gave up that idea. Our anxiety redoubled, and we eagerly fought the cause of this extraordinary motion, when we discovered a *Cachalot*, who at the moment rose a-head of us. He had doubtless entangled his tail (the fins of which spread to an amazing width) between our cables, which happened to be crossed, and in his furious efforts to disengage himself had violently shook, and yet continued to agitate the vessel.

fel. Our people jumped into the shallops, and got ready their harpoons, but unhappily the obscurity of the night retarded those manœuvres which were necessary for the taking of it, and before the shallops were ready it disengaged itself and made its escape. They were all disappointed, myself very much so, and I continued to regret it till chance threw another in my way, and gave me an opportunity of satisfying my curiosity.

The danger over, we replaced ourselves at table, and as false alarms usually create mirth, amused ourselves with bantering each other, and speaking ludicrously of the different impressions which fear had made on each.

The regularity and vigilance with which the orders of *Vangenep* were given on this occasion, was a certain indication that he conceived our situation to be extremely dan-

dangerous; but his fears were not conspicuous; and it is certain that courage and coolness often mask dangers, and encourage the multitude. Such will ever be the conduct of a good officer. Consternation soon spreads itself, when once the men see dismay painted on the features of their Captain. I could not help reflecting on the difference between this scene and the former one, on my crossing the line, when we were so shamefully cannonaded. as before related.

In *Saldanha Bay*, there is a little isle called *Dassen-Island*, or (the isle of monkies) I do not know whether those animals were formerly found there, but I never saw any of them. By common tradition, I learned that a Danish vessel being hindered by contrary winds from entering the road at the Cape, had taken shelter in this Bay; where, after some little stay the Captain died, and was  
buried



buried in this island by his crew, who had erected a monument over him.

Every time I went to *Schaapen* island, as we approached this place, a kind of hollow sound, which had something dreadful in it, struck my ear. I spoke of this to the Captain; he answered, that if I had the smallest inclination that way, we would pay it a visit, for that he himself should like to see the Danish tomb. The next morning he gave orders accordingly, and we set off on this expedition.

In proportion, as we approached this place the noise excited our curiosity, the more so, as the sea breaking with violence against the rocks (which form a kind of rampart round this island) seemed to re-echo the hollow buzzing, the cause of which we could not possibly divine. At length we arrived, I cannot say we landed, for the earth was covered with water,  
and

and the surf was so violent that we were every moment covered with it.

With great difficulty and danger we climbed up the rocks and gained the level plain. Never did a more extraordinary spectacle present itself to mortal eye! There arose from the whole surface of the isle, an impenetrable cloud which formed, at about forty or fifty feet above our heads, an immense canopy, or rather sky of birds of all forms, and of all colours: cormorants, sea-gulls, swallows, pelicans, all the feathered inhabitants of the air who frequent this part of Africa, seemed assembled in this place; while all their various croakings mingled together, and modified according to their different kinds, formed music, that I was every moment obliged to stop my ears in order to diminish the din, and afford myself some relaxation.

The

The alarm was the more general among these innumerable legions of birds, as we had principally to do with females; it was precisely the season of their breeding, and they had their nests, their eggs, and young ones to defend. They attacked us like enraged harpies, and actually deafened us with their cries. Sometimes they fought on full wing, even rushing with violence against us; they seemed regardless of our shot, and nothing was capable of dispersing them; nor could we make a step without crushing either eggs or young ones under our feet. The earth was absolutely covered with them.

The caverns and crevices of the rocks were inhabited by *Phocæses* and *Mors*, a sort of sea calves, and sea lions. We killed among others, one of the latter sort of an enormous size.

The most trifling shelter furnishes a retreat for the *manchots*, who abound above all others. This bird which is about two feet high, does not carry his body like other birds but walks perpendicularly on its feet, with a laughable air of gravity, and what renders its appearance still more ridiculous, the wings, entirely devoid of feathers hang negligently by their sides, and are of no use except in swimming. As we advanced towards the middle of the isle, we encountered innumerable troops of them stalking along erect. These creatures did not by any means derange themselves on our appearance, but crowded particularly about the above mentioned monument in such manner as seemed to forbid our approach; every avenue was obstructed by them. Nature had added to the simple tomb of this poor Danish Captain, what the imagination of the poet, and the chissel of the artist could not possibly have reached. The best scul-  
tured

tured screech owl on our most superb mausoleum has not so hideous, so melancholy an aspect as the *manchot*: the mournful notes of this bird, mingled with the cries of the sea calf, impress the mind with sorrow, and form the heart to tenderness. For some time I fixed my eyes on this last asylum of an unfortunate voyager, and offered the tribute of a sigh to his manes.

A monument raised in haste could offer nothing in itself worthy the remarks of a curious traveller; it was a long square about three feet in height, composed of the broken pieces of rock which the surrounding isle afforded. I wished to see the inside of it; perhaps it contained, with the melancholy remains of the Captain, some account of his death, or of his family. Had I been alone I should certainly have explored it, but being with Dutch sailors, I did not dare to make the offer; they scrupulously respect the dead, and would

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have



have looked on me with horror and detestation had I attempted to disturb this peaceful solitary tomb. They are superstitious to excess, and had any accident befallen the vessel would not have failed placing it to that account, I therefore prudently concealed my desires, but resolved to gratify them at some future opportunity.

We loaded our shallop with the several sorts of animals we had caught. The *Manchots* were not forgotten; they furnished us with a quantity of oil for our lamps; the sailors had picked up a quantity of eggs, that served us for several days; they were delicious, and seasonably relieved the sameness of our dry and common sea provision: I shall add to this digression (which I thought interesting) a few words concerning the sea lion and calf. They are spoke of by authors differently, and their descriptions have so  
clashed



clashed with each other, that in the end, the readers have been compleatly bewildered; all I can say of the former of these monsters is, that I could never discover those trunks half a foot long, which we are persuaded to believe hang to the extremity of the upper jaw of the males. For the latter, which the Dutch have given this name to, it is the same that they shewed three or four years ago in the shops of the *palais royale*; and which they then called a *sea tiger*, at the same time in another place, they shewed one of the same kind under a different name, but all this is nothing to what follows, for the honest credulous Parisians, who fifteen years before would not have gone a step to see a camel, ran in crowds to view a *gangan*, which was nothing more than a camel new baptized by a rogue. Such impositions are more to be condemned than ridiculed; they propagate ignorance among

indolent people; the sacrifice they make of their money to satisfy simple curiosity, ought at least to give them some instruction. We had hardly been three months in the Bay, yet I already was acquainted with all its environs, and had been so well employed about my principal object, as to be able to collect a considerable number of curious birds, shells, insects, plants, and marine productions; but alas! an unfortunate event soon deprived me of the fruits of my labour.

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## C H A P. IV.

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THE SHIPS IN SALDANHA BAY ATTACKED BY  
A SQUADRON UNDER COMMODORE JOHN-  
STONE—THE AUTHOR LOSES HIS EFFECTS—  
ASSISTS IN KILLING A PANTHER—RETURNS  
TO THE CAPE.

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WE received an exprefs by land  
from the governor, which in-  
formed us that Monsieur de Suffrein, after  
the affair of St. Jago, was arrived at the  
Cape, where he daily expected to be  
joined by another French fleet; this  
exprefs also brought orders for the  
*Held Woltemaade*, (the ship in which I

came from Europe) to depart immediately for Ceylon, the place of its destination. Poor Captain S—— V—— failed the beginning of August, this fatal ship had followed us to *Saldanha Bay*, and it certainly was written in the book of fate that it should not depart until it had compleated my ruin.

When I reflected on our ridiculous combat with the privateer, I could not but think the *Held Woltemaade* would be taken as soon as perceived by the English, and so it happened ; for hardly had it set sail, before it was taken, and manned by the squadron of Commodore Johnstone ; this caused the misfortune, the English being informed of our situation by the indiscretion of the crew, presented themselves at the mouth of the Bay, and hoisted French colours, we believed it to be the fleet of our allies which we daily expected, but were soon undeceived by a cutter a-head  
of

of the rest, hoisting the English flag, and firing a broadside, which was followed by the rest of the fleet; the force was too great to admit of a dispute, we therefore cut our cables and run aground, each seeking his safety in flight; disorder and confusion instantly reigned, and the unfortunate ships were left to be ransacked and plundered, every one taking what he could carry with him; our Captain set fire to his ship, the English reached the rest time enough to prevent their undergoing the same fate. The fear of being pursued and taken, made our sailors hasten on the road to the Cape; they had twenty leagues of sands to cross before they reached the town; this discouraged several, who were so loaded that they were obliged to leave part of their effects on the way, the different paths they had taken were strewn with them. Unhappily that day I was hunting, the noise of the cannon reached me, I naturally thought it some

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rejoicing aboard our squadron, and hastened to enjoy it; arriving on the Downs what a sight presented itself to my view! The Middleburgh at that moment blew up, covering the sea and air with flaming fragments; thus in one instant I had the misfortune to behold my effects, my project, my collection, and all my hopes dispersed in air, and vanished in smoke!

All this time the English kept cannonading the Downs, and capturing those whom covetousness had left in the ships; of five prisoners that we had on board, four had thrown themselves in the sea on the discovery of the English flag, and joined their countrymen; the fifth had preferred landing with us; he was on the Downs within ten paces of me, I knew him, and as well as I could in his own language was asking him a question respecting this horrid catastrophe; a bullet that took off his head, prevented his answer,



swer; another from the same broadside did as much for a great dog that appeared seeking his master, and had drawn near me scared and trembling. These two bullets made me dread a third, I therefore abandoned the spot that moment and went to shelter myself on the other side of the Downs.

What was my situation after this terrible adventure ! it is not to be supposed I would go to the Cape, to ask pecuniary assistance and increase the multitude of unhappy victims, who had escaped the fire or bonds of the enemy ; as I was not particularly concerned in this scene of horror, I should have run no risk, for I could derive no benefit from it, without title, without command, alone, separated from every thing that was dear to me ! These ideas, with the rapidity of lightening struck on my mind, and gave a shock to my very soul. Two thousand leagues from my wife,

wife, my children, and my adopted country, without friends, without shelter, almost without hope; my only resources were my gun, six ducats in my pocket, and the clothes I had on. What remained for me? What must become of me? tears now bedewed my cheeks. In this deplorable situation, directing my eyes to the shore, a disturbed imagination presented the conquerors pursuing the vanquished. Savage ferocity for the first time took possession of my heart, and for a moment I wished that a shot from the enemy would by ending my life spare me further misery,

But sorrow can go but one particular length, and my first gloom gradually subsiding, reflection comfortably assured me that despair should never overbalance hope, whilst youth and vigour afforded the means of exertion. It occurred to me that a Colonist I had often seen in hunting,  
and

(and who lived about four leagues off) would suffer me to remain with him, until I could receive supplies from my family in Europe; I repaired to this man's solitary dwelling, and entreated his assistance, misfortune had marked my features with distress, the humane, generous *Slaber* received me with open arms, then took me by the hand, and presented me to his family. From this time, I imitated the indefatigable swallow, whose nest has been cruelly destroyed, like her I again set to work, and began, though not without sorrow, the foundation of another collection. Some days after we received news from the Cape that all the Captains (except Vangenep) were broke, he being the only one who had blown up his ship, which though ruin to me, was a good action for his country, as it prevented her falling into the enemy's hands. On leaving the Cape, they had all received orders (if attacked beyond the power of defence) to  
fire

fire their ships, which previously were to be unrigged, and the cordage, sails, &c. put on board a *Hoeker* (a vessel that drew but little water) which was to anchor further up the Bay, close in shore as possible. The latter part of this order had been obeyed on the vessel's first arrival at Saldanha Bay, and had the Captain of the *Hoeker* fired her, as he had received orders to do, it would have greatly embarrassed the enemy, who in all probability must have been reduced to the necessity of leaving our ships behind them, as they could not have taken them away for want of rigging, or at the worst they must have blown them up as Captain *Vangenech* had done the *Middleburgh*. On the English cutter's approaching the *Hoeker*, her Captain landed with the utmost precipitation, and so far from firing his vessel, he had not even made the least preparation for that purpose, but instead of it, by an inconceivable spirit of contradiction, not to  
say

say madness, set on fire, and reduced to ashes, an elegant habitation at the extremity of the Bay, in a place where the water was so shallow that even shallops could not land; he was afterwards prosecuted by the proprietor *Le Sieur Heufke* for damages, who expected to recover the whole amount of his loss.

*Vangenep* was the only Captain on our arrival at Saldanha that had made the necessary preparation for executing punctually the orders given at the Cape, in consequence our vessel was stowed with faggots, and compleatly larded in every part with oiled tow, pitch, tar, and other combustibles. The other Captains were the less pardonable, as they had been three months in the Bay without employ: for we arrived the eleventh of May, and this affair happened the beginning of August.

The



The officers and sailors running tumultuously to the town, had but too much spread the news of our defeat.

M. Boers, Fiscal, not seeing me return, made so much enquiry, that he soon discovered the retreat I had chosen; in a few days he arrived, how much did I then regret my having been divided from so kind a friend. I gave him an account of the unhappy situation, to which the common misfortune had reduced me, by the loss of all I had possessed; I likewise informed him of my resolution to stay with the honest *Slaber*, until I had received news from my family, and assiduously endeavour in the mean time to regain a collection equal to my former, and extend my knowledge in natural history. M. Boers heard me out without the smallest interruption, would it were possible I could engrave in letters of gold his tender reproaches, and pressing solicitude, to go  
with



with him even that minute; this proposal was made without haughtiness, or the consequential impatience that in general accompanies the offers of European protection, all was that open frankness, which ever judges of others by itself, and deems the obliged worthy the benefit. In answer to my excuses, “ Sir,” said he, “ you  
“ must not forget you was recommended  
“ to me, the hour of your unhappiness is  
“ the time when I should shew myself worthy the confidence my friends repose.  
“ I will not deceive them, my house, my  
“ table, and every assistance in my power  
“ is at your service; take courage, make  
“ another effort, re-assume your researches,  
“ and do not let uncertain news from  
“ Europe prevent your travels; leave the  
“ resources to me, you shall not refuse.  
“ —— I will have it so.”

His generous offer was conveyed with such honest warmth, that I plainly perceived

ceived a refusal would give him pain ; I therefore accepted it, and to this worthy friend I owed the advantage to apply myself without more delay, for the desired journey, as well as the considerable expence that attended its execution : often do I read the remembrance of this kindness, it is engraven on my heart ; with equal gratitude I reflect on the favors I received from Mr. Hacker, lieutenant governor, while at the Cape. To Mr. Gordon, commander of the troops, my thanks are likewise due for the services he rendered me ; his curious observations published in Holland by Allaman, are much esteemed, and I must own that to them I am greatly obliged for a number of curious details of objects, which perhaps might have escaped me, had I not received instructions and council before my departure, from an author who had himself visited some parts of the country.

I asked

I asked permission to pass a fortnight at Saldanha, to repair if possible a small part of the loss I had sustained, not knowing whether I should have it in my power to return to this unfortunate spot.

At least I wished to furnish myself with particulars, which I was almost certain I could not procure elsewhere.

I was so perfectly acquainted with the spot, that I may say I had only to reach out my hand for them, for before the tragical history of our vessel, I had purchased a horse, and hired a Hottentot, to attend me, who had led me to the most unfrequented spots ; my host and his two sons assisted, on the least sign they would have prevented my wishes ; it might have been imagined they were at my command ; never could I look at these honest people without astonishment and admiration.

The good *Slaber* had likewise three daughters of pleasing appearance, and fine forms, indeed none of the family measured less than six feet.

I employed in the best manner possible the fifteen days, I had with so much trouble obtained from my friends : shells, plants, and hunting, took up all my time, the last particularly was my favorite diversion, though it was perpetually exposing me to the greatest dangers, and I had gained a character for intrepidity ten leagues round.

One evening that I returned early, I found at our dwelling one of the inhabitants I was unacquainted with, he had been waiting for me, his name was *Smit*, he was come to solicit our assistance against a tyger, that had for some time infested his division, and carried away regularly every night some of his cattle ; his entreaty  
gave

gave me pleasure, I accepted it with joy, delighted to have a regular chace of that animal, and determined to revenge myself on this, for the fright I had before received from his fellow. We fixed on the next day, persuading some young men in the environs to accompany us; I remarked they did not much like the business; however, I contrived to shame the most fearful, and this served as a spur to the rest. We got together all the dogs we could find, and provided ourselves with arms. Thus every thing ready prepared for the assault, we separated until morning. I then went to bed, but could not close my eyes from impatience; at break of day I gained the plain with my escort (*Smit*, and some of his friends) we were in all eighteen, about the same number of dogs. *Smit* informed us the tyger had that night robbed him of a sheep. One of my guns was loaded with large pieces of lead, another with shot, and a carbine with balls, two of which my

Hottentot carried as he followed me. The country was tolerably open, except here and there a few divided thickets, which we were obliged to beat with great precaution.

After an hours fruitless search we found the half devoured carcass of the sheep, this assured us the animal was not far off, and could not escape. Some few moments after our dogs, who till that time had been beating confusedly about, pressed together, and rushed within two hundred paces of us into a large thicket, barking and howling as loud as possible.

I leaped from my horse, gave him to my Hottentot, and running to the side of the thicket, got on a rising ground within fifty paces; casting my eyes back I perceived my companions were alarmed. However, John Slaber, (son of my host) came up, saying he would not abandon me, though in danger of his life. By the agitation



agitation of his appearance, and the fear which was marked on his countenance, I judged the poor lad gave himself up for lost I well knew that the apparent firmness of another would encourage him, and indeed, though his terror was extreme, I believe he thought himself in greater security when near me, than in the midst of his poltroon companions, who were gazing upon us at a respectful distance. I had been told that in case I should be near enough to the animal to be heard, I must not say *saa, saa*, for that word would render the beast furious, and that he would rush on the person that uttered it; as I had company, I was not afraid of being surprised therefore repeated the word a hundred times together, by the way of encouraging the dogs, and likewise to drive the beast from the thicket; but all in vain, the animal and dogs were equally fearful of each other, the former not daring to quit his retreat, nor the latter to enter it; yet

among the mastiffs there were some that must have succeeded had their courage equalled their strength; my dog, the smallest of the pack, was always at their head, he alone advancing a little into the thicket. It is true, he knew me, and was animated by my voice. The hideous beast roared terribly, every moment I expected it to rush out, the dogs on its smallest motion, drew hastily back, and ran as fast as possible; at length a few random shot dislodged him; and he rushed out suddenly: his appearance seemed the signal for every one to decamp, even John Slaber (formed with the strength of a Hercules, able to wrestle with the animal, and strangle him in his arms) abandoned me, and ran to the others—I remained alone with my Hottentot. The panther in endeavouring to gain another thicket, passed within fifty paces of us, with all the dogs at his heels, we saluted him by firing three shot as he passed us.

The

The thicket in which he had taken refuge was neither so high, large, or bushy as the one he had quitted; a track of blood made me presume I had wounded him, and the fury of the dogs was a proof I was not mistaken; a number of my people now drew near, but the greater part had entirely disappeared.

The animal was baited more than an hour, we firing into the thicket more than forty random shot, at length (tired and impatient with this tedious business,) I remounted my horse, and turned with precaution on the opposite side to the dogs. I imagined that employed in defending himself against them, it would be easy to get behind him; I was not mistaken, I saw him squatting, and striking with his paws to keep at bay my dog that ran barking within the reach of his fangs. When I had taken the necessary steps to catch him in a good situation, I fired my carbine, this  
I im-

I immediately dropped to catch up my gun, which I carried at the bow of my saddle; this precaution was useless, the animal did not appear, nor could I see him after firing my carbine. Though I was sure I had hit him, it would have been imprudent to have rushed immediately into the thicket. As he made no noise, I suspected he was dead or mortally wounded; "Friends," cried I to the hunters that approached, "let us go in a firm line straight up to him, if he is yet alive, all our pieces fired together will overcome him, and we can be in no danger;" one person only answered, and that was in the negative; in short, none liked the proposal. Enraged, I said to my Hottentot (who was not less animated than his master) "command, the animal is either dead, or near it, get on horseback, approach as I did, and try to discover in what state we have put him, I will guard the entrance, and if he attempts to escape, will shoot him,"

“ him; we shall be able to finish him  
“ without the assistance of these cowards.”  
No sooner had he entered than he called  
to me that the tiger was extended, with-  
out motion, and he believed him dead; but  
to be assured, he fired his carbine; I ran,  
transported with pleasure: my brave Hot-  
tentot partook my exultation, triumph  
redoubled our force; we dragged the  
animal from the thicket, he seemed enor-  
mous; I examined him particularly, turn-  
ing him from side to side, this was my first  
essay, and by chance, the tyger was mon-  
strous; it was a male. From the extremity  
of the tail to the nose, he measured seven  
feet ten inches, to a circumference of two  
feet, ten inches. I found that he exactly  
answered the description of the Panther  
given by *Buffon*, but through all this  
country, he is known by no other name than  
the tyger, though it is only the prevalence  
of custom, for in this part of Africa, there  
are no tygers, the difference between that  
animal

animal and the Panther being very great. The Hottentots call it *garou gama*, or the *spotted lion*.

In general, in the colonies of the Cape, they fear the panther more than the lion, the latter, never approaching without roaring terribly, himself giving a signal for preparation and defence; confiding in his strength, his attack is open; the others on the contrary, ever approach without noise, watch with art, and fall on their prey before it is aware of their appearance. I had many occasions afterwards of seeing different species of these animals; one called the *luypar*, by the Hollanders, which signifies leopard; another small one called the tyger cat, is the *offclot* of *buffon*, of which I shall speak more hereafter.

When I had finished my remarks on the panther, and taken a drawing, we prepared



pared to skin him ; my timorous companions drew near by little and little ; it is true, they had reason to blush in the presence of a stranger, who on this occasion had shewn more intrepidity than any of those who were bred and born, if I may so speak, among the monsters of Africa. When we had finished our operation, my Hottentot wrapped the skin about him, and, saluting our hunters, we returned homewards, and walked in triumph, accompanied by several dogs whose masters had decamped at the beginning of the chase ; they approached us fearfully, the tyger's skin keeping them in awe ; sometimes the Hottentot turned, pretending to run at them, it was then a trial of skill who should run the fastest ; this caused us a great deal of diversion.

Accounts of this expedition were soon spread, and I received some compliments  
on

on my behaviour, even from those who had so ill seconded me.

Soon after this expedition, another Colonist, who was unknown to me, and lived about four leagues off, sent to entreat that I would assist his sons in destroying a panther that infested his vicinity.

The experience I had gained on my first essay, did not engage me to wish for a second, I therefore declined the proposal, having resolved to expose myself no more, to the danger of being the victim of another desertion ; “ No ” answered I, “ tell  
“ your master, I am not come into these  
“ countries to destroy the race of tygers, I  
“ was too ill seconded in my first attempt,  
“ for which reason I shall not wilfully en-  
“ gage in another ; should chance lead me  
“ into a like situation, I hope I shall be able

“ to defend myself without asking for assistance, therefore I shall not lend any.”

But I was wrong for speaking thus hastily, and censuring those Colonists I did not know, because others had given me cause of complaint; the invitation came from *Louis Karte*. Some time after I became acquainted with him, and was sorry for the idea I had formed of his sons who proved themselves as brave, as the others were dastardly, in the moment of danger.

The time I had purposed being absent from Mr. Boers, was almost elapsed; the favorable season for my travels drew near; I had great preparations to make; I therefore took leave of the good *Slaber* and his family. I quitted them with regret, though free from care, embarrassment, and inquietude, my heart lighter than when I came; I gave a last look to the Bay of Saldanha, and took the road to the Cape.

C H A P.

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## C H A P. V.

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THE CAPE MOUNTAINS, BAYS, AND COLONIES  
DESCRIBED—ACCOUNT OF THE NEGRO SLAVES  
—DIFFERENT SPECIES OF QUAILS &c.

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MR. Boers expected me: on my arrival I became a part of his family. I found here every thing I could desire, without that haughty pride which so often impoisons the favors of the great. He even prevented my wishes by providing every necessary I stood in need of for my journey. I now began to prepare for it, and to that end cemented my friendship with  
with

he approved my expedition, he did not endeavour to hide from me the danger which attended the execution of it. The recital of the hazards encountered by himself on a like occasion only redoubled my ardor, and I belived myself invulnerable to those perils which he pourtrayed, and which were sufficiently discouraging. While my necessaries were preparing, I more particularly examined the town and its environs. I went several times upon Table and Lyon mountains; the former of them when viewed from the Bay, seems to join the town, though in fact it is at a league's distance from it. The foot of this mountain is incumbered with a great quantity of fragments of rock which seem at different times to have been broken from it; its base is formed of pure granite, and to its very summit, it is composed of horizontal layers of granite and earth alternately. Its height as computed by the *Abbe de La Caille*, is three thousand six hundred feet above the level of the sea;

and can only be climbed by the chasm, through which the water flows, which supplies the town; this passage is extremely dangerous, particularly towards the top, where it runs very narrow, and is almost perpendicular. It requires two good hour's labour to gain the summit, then you arrive at a very spacious plain confusedly scattered over with huge pieces of rock mingled with bushes, which altogether has the appearance of an immense city in ruins. Time in conjunction with the clouds and winds, has worn off their asperities, and given them a kind of uniformity. I have seen some stones there as compleatly rounded as those pebbles which are picked up on the sea shore. Towards the middle of the plain, there is a basin of three or four hundred paces in circumference, from whence the waters flow which supply the town by the channel before mentioned. I have taken a number of woodcocks here, whether this  
water



water is supplied by springs, by rain, or by mists, is a question I cannot answer. The mountain is intersected by a number of channels which distribute the waters in every direction, and fertilize the scattered plantations which surround it. This place is the haunt of a great number of vultures, of that kind called pteroptere, they are frequently driven from the mountains by the South East wind with great precipitation into the very streets of the town where they are knocked down with sticks by the inhabitants. They also find here that kind of ape, which the Dutch call *bawians*, who are known to be very great thieves; and frequently get over garden walls, robbing them of the fruit, but never make their attacks with that order and precision that *Caille* speaks of in his childish and erroneous account of them. When the air is pure and serene one may distinguish from the top of Table mount, the mountains of *Piquet*, thirty

leagues off; and though at so great a distance, they seem to surpass it in height. When people ascend Table mountain for the first time, while climbing the above mentioned chasm, they are sure to imagine that it rains, however fine the weather may be. This effect is caused by the water that is continually dropping from the rocks above, which in falling so far forms a kind of rain, which is ever more abundant in the morning, than the rest of the day; the damps and dews of the night easily account for this.

At about a third of the way up this chasm, the eye is presented with a beautiful cascade which falls from a flat piece of rock of considerable extent. From the town to this spot is a usual walk, even the ladies can proceed thus far without difficulty, and enjoy the satisfaction of a most charming and picturesque prospect which presents itself from this place.

The

The slaves frequently make a fire near where they are working, which serves them to light their pipes, and dress their victuals. Those at the Cape, who are employed in cutting wood for their masters firing, (and who sometimes go for that purpose to the other side of Table mountain) when they leave work at night, often neglect to extinguish the fires, which spreading by means of dried roots and grafs, at length gain the woods, which taking fire, burn with violence, and discharge clouds of flame and smoke. The night following the town and road are presented with a most magnificent spectacle, whose cause being known, the mind is not struck with that terror which such a phenomenon would otherwise occasion, for the elevation and extent of the fire, renders the mountain a much more tremendous spectacle than Mount Vesuvius at the height of its eruption. I was never but once a witness of this majestic illumi-

nation which I must confess threw me into an extacy. Whatever art has effected for the direction of vessels thirty leagues distance at sea, forms but a faint resemblance of this natural pharos lighted up by the carelessness of a poor negro. It is impossible to pass from Table to Devil mountain, though their summits seem only to have been separated by earthquakes, or some other cause; but you may easily go from that to Lyon mountain, which appears also to have been originally a part of the same, the top of the latter can only be gained by means of rope, with which, by great difficulty, they help themselves up; it is from this place that they give signals to ships at sea.

A servant of the company is always stationed here, who fires a cannon for every ship he discovers, and by a signal agreed on, they know in an instant whether the  
vessel

vessel is coming from Europe or India. The same man as soon as he perceives what country it belongs to is obliged to go to town and inform the governor.

This employment is extremely dangerous, and it often happens that the poor fellow has to ascend and descend four or five times in a day, which is inconceivably fatiguing. This is a great cruelty in the government, which yet no one seems to think any thing of. The man I saw, told me with great tranquility, that they never grew old in this employment; I readily believed him, for though he was but thirty-five, his knees and ancles were so stiff, that he had enough to do to walk. I went likewise to visit the famous territory of *Constantia*, situate behind Table mountain. This vineyard does not however produce a tenth part of the wine that bears its name. It then belonged to a Mr. *Cloete*. Some say the original plants



were brought from *Burgundy*, others that they came from *Maderia*, and others even from *Persia*; thus much is certain, this wine is delicious at the Cape, but loses much of its goodness on being transported, and after five years old is good for nothing. At my arrival, the *Demi-Haam* (about eighty bottles) was sold from thirty-five, to forty piastres; but at my departure the same quantity was worth more than a hundred.

Not far from *Constantia* there is another vineyard called *Little Constantia*, but it is only within seven or eight years, that the produce of this latter has equalled its neighbour, but lately it has arrived to such perfection, that it has even fetched the best price at the Company's sales. As these plantations are only separated by a hedge, the difference that arises between their productions can only be the consequence of various modes of management.

The



The whole space between Table and False Bays, is interspersed with Summer houses, and beautiful habitations, where they cultivate vegetables, fruits and vines. The most esteemed, and whose produce approaches the nearest to the wine of Constantia are those of *Becker* and *Hendrik*. The Cape wine merchants purchase, and sell them for real Constantia. Besides their sweet wines, other cantons of the Colonies, as *Perle*, *Stellembosch*, and *Dragstein*, furnish those dry wines, which are in so great estimation. They make a wine here likewise which is very like *Rota*, and which is frequently called by that name, and I have drank some which has equalled the real. Those who wish to purchase at the Cape, must apply to those who cultivate it, if they would have good wine. For the merchants adulterate considerably, being sensible it will not keep in the casks, if they have not a ready sale, and in order to preserve it as long  
as

as possible, they mix it with considerable quantities of brandy. The common wine of this country seldom makes its appearance at polite tables, red burgundy is most made use of, and the wine imported in Dutch vessels is always preferred to that brought by the French, which usually tastes of the cask, and will not keep. The average price of this wine is a florin a bottle, but it varies according to circumstances, and I have sometimes seen it sold for three florins, and at other times for twelve sous.

The beer they brew at the Cape is much esteemed, but they place a very high value on that which is brought from Europe, its price fluctuates from twelve to twenty-four sous the bottle; there is a great demand here for liquors in general.

On entering a house you are always presented with a *sopi*, that is to say, with a  
glass

glass of arrack, Geneva, or perhaps French brandy. Geneva, however, is the common morning dram. Before they set down to table, the etiquette is to offer a *sopi* of white wine, in which wormwood or aloes have been steeped to create an appetite. At table they drink beer, or wine indiscriminately. After the desert the ladies retire to a different apartment, they then bring in pipes and tobacco, with a recruit of wine for the men; mean time the ladies are served with coffee, rhenish, and moselle. They then form themselves into card parties, while the men continue to drink and smoke, and if any interesting, or witty subject is started among them, it is sure to furnish a pretext for a few more bumpers. This is their usual manner of living, with this difference, that those in indifferent circumstances drink their own wine, but in this particular, the vanity of the inhabitants is often very ridiculous; one day as I was walking with Mr. Boers, he  
made

made me observe a man seated at the door of his house, who seeing we were near him, began calling to his slave with a loud voice, to bring him some red wine, though the fiscal assured me, he had not a single bottle at his command, and that most likely he had not drank of it ten times in his life; when I had passed him some little way I turned and saw that it was beer his slave had brought him.

The Hout-Bay (or Wood Bay) takes its name from the wood that grows on its borders, which consists of bushy thickets, there being no large trees. This Bay is small, open to the West wind, and surrounded with rocks, it is rare for any vessels to anchor here, unless suddenly drove by bad weather, and unable to gain any other shelter; it is two leagues South-West of the Cape. False Bay, South-East of the Cape, is at the distance of three leagues, but it necessary to go four to gain

gain good anchorage; this spacious Bay is an asylum to a number of vessels; it is here the ships from Table Bay take refuge when the West winds begin to blow, on the contrary, when the South East commences they return to their former situation.

The commander's appointment at False Bay is but small, but his place is very profitable by the commerce he has with foreign vessels, buying their merchandise, which he sends to Cape town, where it sometimes sells for treble its value. On the borders of the Bay there are a number of large magazines in which are deposited provision for the Company's vessels, likewise an hospital for the crews, and an hotel for the governor, who usually resides some days there, when the ships of the Company are at anchor. Commerce likewise draws a number from the Cape who furnish lodgings for the officers; while the



the latter reside there, the Bay is very lively, but no sooner do they weigh anchor, than the place is deserted by all but the garrison which is relieved monthly. Ships who arrive after the other vessels departure are oftentimes rather unfortunate, the magazines being so compleatly emptied, that they who arrive last are obliged to produce what they want from the town, the carriage of which is exorbitantly dear, a miserable cart being from 20 to 30 piastres a day; I have seen even 50 given, but it is to be remarked that in twenty-four hours, they can make but one journey.

It is here they catch the best fish, particularly the *Rooman*, which gives its name to the rock near which it is found in great abundance; they likewise find oysters, but in small quantities. It must be remarked that on the land comprised between Table bay and Cape town, but above all near Constantia and New Land, is found the charming



charming tree called by the Dutch *silver blaaderen* (the protea argentea of the botanists;) it seems at the time Dr. Sparman resided at the Cape this tree was not in such quantities as at present, for the Colonists having remarked that it grew very fast, made large plantations of it; which are now become very useful to them for fuel. I observed that this tree grew in no other part of the colony, not even in the country of the Namaquois, from whence Mr. Sparman has supposed it first taken; I am assured it does not grow there, nor in any other of the Cantons that I have seen; I imagine it has been brought from some other part of Africa. Mr. Sonnerat in his last voyage to India, affirms it to be the only native of the Cape; it would seem that this naturalist had never seen the *mimosa nilotica*, which is very common there, as are a great number of others.

The colonies of *Stellenbosch*, *Droegstein*, *Fransche-Hoek*, *La Perle*, *La Holland Hot-tentotte*,

*tentotte*, are different cantons situated between the Cape, and a great chain of mountains, these furnish all the fruit and wine. The *Stellembosch* is a little town where several inhabitants have retired from the Cape, who cultivate their own lands; they have a church, a minister, and a bailiff, who is a kind of judge to whom in case of debt or dispute they apply, but his power not enabling him to give greater damages than fifty rix-dollars, all above that sum must come under the cognizance of the fiscal. The *Fransche-Hoeck* in the heart of the mountains, between the *Stellembosch* and the *Dragestein*, has received its name from some refugees that settled there about the end of the last century. The land is good, and furnishes plenty of corn and wine. They make the best bread of all the colonies, not that the corn is better, but the French method of making it, which was introduced by the emigrants, and preserved from father to son, this appears the only remembrance left them of their

their ancient and cruel country. I found, in this canton, but one old man who spoke French, yet several of the families bear and write their original names; there was among them that of *Malherbe*, *Dutoit*, *Retif*, *Cocher*, and many others that are familiar to us. They are only distinguished from the other Colonists (who are very fair) by their dark hair and brown complexions.

The division called *Dutch Hottentotte*, is so named because this Canton (originally inhabited by Hottentots) was the first that the Dutch seized on. It furnishes them with vegetables, fruit, and corn; the *Stellembosch* bounds it on the North, a chain of mountains on the East, *False Bay*, on the West, and the mountains where the natives still retain some habitations on the South.

The first chain of mountains that are seen from *Table Bay* are called the *Tiger Mountains*, on them are scattered excel-

lent plantations for the growth of corn, which covering the hills, is a beautiful view from the town in the harvest season; their fruitfulness having given them the name of Corn Magazines to the whole colony.

The other side of these mountains are equally well cultivated; the farms in the neighbourhood of the Cape are generally very profitable, on account of the ease with which they convey their vegetables, fruit, eggs, milk, and all other necessary provisions to the town, an advantage which those at a greater distance do not enjoy.

For twelve leagues round the Cape the colonists do not employ Hottentots, rather buying Negroes who are not so lazy, and whom they can more safely trust. The Hottentots, careless and inconstant by nature, often go away on the approach of hard labour, and leave their masters in embarrassment; the Negroes desert also, but

but vain is their efforts for liberty, they are soon retaken, and sent to the Bailiff of the Canton, from whom the prosecutor reclaims them for a small fine, after they have received some trifling correction; nor is there any part of the world where the slaves are treated with such humanity as at the Cape.

The Negroes of Mosambique and Madagascar are regarded as the best workmen, and most affectionate to their masters; when they are landed at the Cape, they usually sell from a hundred and twenty, to a hundred and fifty piasters a head.

The Indians are more employed in household work in the town; there are also Malaysians, who are the most subtle and dangerous of slaves. Assassinating their master or mistress is with them a common crime; during the five years I passed in Africa, I saw many instances of it. They go to execution with the greatest indifference. I heard one of these wretches

H 2 say



say to Mr. Boers, he was glad he had committed the crime, that he well knew the death attending the commission of it, which he ardently wished for, as it would return him to his native country. I am amazed such an error does not cause greater misfortunes.

The Creole slaves at the Cape are most esteemed, they are sold at double the price of the others: and if they know any business, their price is exorbitant. A cook will sell from eight to twelve hundred rixdollars, and others in proportion to their talents. They are ever neatly dressed, but walk barefoot, as a mark of slavery. At the Cape there is none of that insolent train called footmen, luxury and pride not having yet introduced this useless lumber of the anti-chambers of the great.

A stranger is surprized on his arrival at the Cape, to see a multitude of slaves as fair as Europeans, but astonishment ceases when it is known the young female negroes



groes have generally a lover among the foldiers of the garrison, with whom they generally pafs the Sunday ; the interest of the mafter makes him overlook the morals of his flaves, he profiting by their licentious conduct.

There are, notwithstanding, female blacks, who are legally married, and negroes who form a part of the common people ; they are men, who by their services, or from other motives, are emancipated ; the facility with which they formerly gained their liberty, was fubject to much abufe, as thofe who were old and infirm, on obtaining it, having no resource, became thieves and vagabonds ; the government was obliged to take cognizance of this, and at prefent no mafter can free his flave without depositeing a fum in the orphan charity for his maintenance.

One circumftance that caufes depravity among the flaves, and will ever vi-

tiate their morals, is, that the government of Batavia frequently send their disorderly slaves to the Cape. These people are generally Malaysians, all thieves, or receivers, for the last article their reputation is so established, that their habitations are first searched when a slave is missing, or any property lost.

It is very uncommon for a master to punish a slave himself, he generally puts him into the hands of the fiscal, who orders him the necessary correction. If a master corrects his slave unmercifully, the latter may complain to the fiscal, who will oblige the master to sell him; or in case of wounds or death, he is in danger of corporal punishment, or banishment to the Isle of *Roben*; these wise laws do honor to the Dutch government, but how many ways are there to elude them! Isle *Roben* is two leagues in the sea, in front of Table Bay, and in view of the town; it takes its name from the quantity of marine dogs that are found there.

This

This Isle is a flat of small extent, and is the place of banishment from the Cape; it is under the command of a corporal, who has the title of commander. The unhappy exiles are each day to deliver a certain quantity of lime-stone which they dig; in spare time they fish or cultivate their small gardens, which procures them tobacco and some other little indulgencies. It is astonishing to see how large all kinds of vegetables grow; cauliflowers are of an amazing bigness, and cultivated in sand; their goodness exceeds their size. There are likewise some violet coloured figs of exquisite smell. The wells furnish water as good as that at the Cape, an extraordinary phenomenon in an island of such small extent, and almost level with the sea.

I saw a great number of black serpents of four or five feet long, but they are not dangerous. Partridges and quails are found here in abundance, I have

sometimes shot from fifty to sixty of a morning.

I must here make an observation interesting to Natural History; the quails of the Isle of *Roben*, and those of the Cape, are one and the same species, without the least difference that can render my assertion doubtful; notwithstanding the quail is a bird of passage, (a fact well known to every one) yet, though it is but two leagues from Isle *Roben* to Terra Firma, it is positively known that those birds never emigrate, being equally plentiful in all seasons. I must add, that the quails of Europe are absolutely of the same kind; then must we not conclude that the European quail never passes the sea, which has ever been asserted; some voyagers assure us they have seen them at sea, but that does not decide the question, for at seventy leagues from shore, I have shot from the yard of our vessel, starlings, chaffinches, linnets, and once an owl, all which birds are well known  
not

not to emigrate; they had doubtless been put to confusion by some hurricane or tempestuous weather; and I shall ever think the same of the quails, until that part of the history of birds has received more positive explanation. What makes me give less belief to their crossing the sea is, they may go to Africa by land, and return to Europe the same way; and surely if those of *Roben* Island dare not cross the little space that separates them from the Cape, much less would they risk a flight so very considerable. The quail is a very heavy bird, and the smallness of the wings proportioned to the weight of its body, badly calculated for a continued or long flight; and 'tis well known to every sportsman, that when a dog has raised a quail three or four times, it can no longer fly, but overcome with weariness, may be easily taken with the hand.

Besides the quail common in Europe and Africa, there is at the Cape a smaller bird, known also by the name of quail,  
but



but very improperly; it has only three claws on each foot, and those placed before, which makes a sufficient difference to distinguish them.

Mr. Sonnerat, in his voyage to India, describes a bird of the same species, which he calls (*caille a trois doigts*). Mr. Desfontaines has likewise described one on the coast of Barbary, nearly resembling those of the Cape, of which no doubt there are great variety. I have seen two other kinds much larger, the one of Ceylon, the other of Java. I think they should be thrown into a separate class, and ranged between the common quail and the duck, whose feet have a similar formation.

The government sends every year a detachment into the Isle of *Roben* to shoot mors and manchets, which are called at the Cape, penguins, from whom they extract great quantities of oil. There is at  
Isle



Isle *Roben*, a little creek, which may afford shelter for one vessel when the South East wind hinders it from gaining the road of the Cape.

In quitting Europe I had no design to enter into minute descriptions of the manners and customs of the inhabitants of the Cape, much less of their form of government, political, civil, or military ; this I confess did not form the principal part of my study, and it was with regret that I ran into such descriptions when they fell naturally in my way. I have as good reasons perhaps for my reserve in this point, as the reader can have for his curiosity. But even from the reveries of *Kolben* a number of useful remarks may be extracted. Ten years residence at the town could not fail of giving him sufficient opportunities of remarking their customs, and perhaps he has not imposed on his readers so much as some have imagined ; customs which existed at  
the

the time he wrote, may have ceased, and his account of them be now considered as so many fables.

Manners, customs, laws, nay empires themselves are continually varying, so the account of any people, after a few ages, must be in the same predicament with a portrait, which though it may have been strikingly like a person in his youth can hardly be said to retain any resemblance when the original is worn out with age.

What this traveller has advanced concerning the religious ceremonies of the Hottentots, has not the same plea, for I never could perceive that they had the least idea of a Being rendering retribution for vice or virtue. I have lived a long time with these peaceable people, I have penetrated a considerable way into their country, never did I see any trace of what has been affirmed concerning the customs they are said to observe on the birth of their male children, at their funerals, in  
their

their mode of legislation, and above all, nothing of what they have been pleased to assert respecting their ridiculous and disgusting marriages.

Kolben is not yet forgot at the Cape ; tis known that he never left the town, though he has spoke with the certainty of an eye witness of the manners and customs of the internal parts of the country.

It is however, not to be questioned, but that after ten years residence, and having done nothing of what he was charged with the care of, he thought it easier to associate with the good fellows of the colony, who, while they drank his wine, laughed in their sleeves, and vied with each other in recounting those ridiculous anecdotes which compose the bulk of his memoirs. 'Tis thus those new discoveries were obtained which were to enlarge the bounds of human knowledge!

## C H A P. VI.

DESCRIPTION OF THE AUTHOR'S TRAVELLING EQUIPAGE.—BEGINS HIS JOURNEY FROM THE CAPE.—VISITS THE HOT BATHS.—ARRIVES AT A HOTTENTOT HOORD.—ENCREASES HIS TRAIN.—JOURNEY CONTINUED.

I HAD got every thing in readiness for the journey; my baggage was considerable; for in the first ardor which had transported my imagination beyond its ordinary course, I had set no bounds to my travels, but resolved to prosecute them to the utmost possible extent, and wished above all things not to be constrained to return for want of indispensable necessities. I knew too that my return might not be equally in my power with the departure; I had therefore taken care not to neglect even those things which were not absolutely necessary, but which might be serviceable in a number of unforeseen circumstances, and I was even afraid of  
for-

forgetting something, the want of which I might have occasion to regret.

The three months I had passed at the Cape, since my expedition to the Bay of *Saldanha*, had been fully employed in these necessary preparations.

I had provided myself with two large four wheeled waggon, covered with a tilt. Five large chests just covered the bottom of one of the carriages, and I could readily open any one of them without displacing the rest. On these was a mattrafs, which I proposed making use of as a bed during my journey, whenever it happened that want of time, or any other cause prevented me pitching my tent. At the head of my mattrafs I placed a little chest of drawers, which I meant should contain my insects, butterflies, or any other objects whose tender texture might require care. I had so well contrived these drawers, and my collection was



so well preserved in them, that for the convenience of other naturalists, who may travel in similar circumstances, I have thought fit to describe the form. It was two feet and a half long, eighteen inches deep, and as many wide; the whole length was divided into eighteen departments, each of which contained a drawer that reached within three inches of the bottom; these drawers stood in a vertical direction, and were to be drawn out from the top, exactly filling the space designed for each, so that if the jolting of the waggon detached any of the insects from the frames to which I had fastened them, they could only fall into the before-mentioned space of four inches, and not incommode those that remained. Over the bottom of the box I spread a thin coat of virgin wax, tempered with linseed oil. which closed up the pores, and by its smell kept off the insects that might have injured my collection.

It



It was also in this first waggon that I stowed all my arms and ammunition, and we called it the *master waggon*; one of my before mentioned chests was divided into squares, each filled with a case bottle, containing five or six pounds of powder, besides which I had several barrels, which to preserve from fire, or moisture, I had caused to be sewn up in fresh sheep skins, which drying over the barrels, formed an impenetrable covering. I reckoned altogether that I had about five hundred weight of powder, and not less than two thousand weight of lead and pewter, wrought and unwrought; sixteen muskets, one of which I designed for the larger kind of animals (such as the Elephant, Rhinoceros and Hyppopotamus) was of a larger bore than ordinary, and carried a quarter of a pound of powder. I had besides these several pair of double barrelled pistols, a large cimeter and a dagger.

My second waggon contained a whimsical medley, but which was not on that account the less estimable. This was my kitchen. How many exquisite and peaceable repasts has it furnished me with ! How pleasing are the details of this charming and domestic life to my heart ! I never assist at those dinners where etiquette and tediousness preside, but the disgust they occasion brings to my remembrance my charming African meals, where my honest hottentots provided the banquet for their friend.

My kitchen furniture was not very considerable, a gridiron, frying pan, two saucepans and a large pot, some plates and dishes, coffee and tea cups, basons, two tea kettles, and a few other necessities composed my whole equipage.

I had provided myself with a good stock of linen, plenty of sugar candy, and white sugar, coffee, tea and some pounds of chocolate.

As I was to furnish tobacco and brandy for the Hottentots that accompanied me, I had a large quantity of the first, and two casks of the latter ; packages of glass and hardware to change occasionally, or procure the friendship of the natives ; a large tent, and the necessary implements for mending my waggons, and for running of lead ; an engine for raising weights, some nails, iron in bars, &c. with pins, needles, and thread, composed the second part of my travelling equipage.

My two waggons might weigh about five thousand pounds weight, and the astonishment they occasioned among the savages afforded me much amusement.

My train consisted of thirty oxen, twenty for the two waggons, and ten to relieve them occasionally ; three horses for hunting, nine dogs, and five hottentots ; my number of men and animals was occasion-

ally much increased, of the first sometimes to the number of forty. They were generally augmented or decreased, according to the state of my kitchen, for in the deserts of Africa, as in other and more polished countries, there are a number of Parasites ; but these, without being much expence were not totally useless, as they furnished me with frequent opportunities of forming a judgment of the temper and genius of this people.

As my intended journey was known to all Cape Town ; before my departure I was warmly solicited by several to permit them to accompany me, but these gentlemen and I thought very differently.

They imagined their proposal must give me a great deal of pleasure, they could not believe I would go only accompanied by Hottentots ; on the contrary, I thought it not prudent to have any other companion,

as

as I was not ignorant that of all the expeditions ordered by government, none had succeeded; as a diversity of tempers and characters can never sufficiently coincide; harmony in a new and hazardous expedition can hardly be maintained, among men, whose self love is ever predominant. I therefore was careful not to lose the fruits of my voyage, and determined to go alone. I wished to be absolute master in this expedition, which made me reject all their offers and keep firm to my purpose.

My baggage being ready, I took leave of my friends, setting out the 18th of December, 1781, on horseback, at the head of my cavalcade; it was not my design to make long stages; I led the way towards *Dutch Hottentots*, and stopped at the decline of day, at the foot of those high mountains that border the east of the cape.



It was necessary to establish regularity among my people, all depended on the beginning; without being a great philosopher, I knew enough of human nature to be aware of one truth, that whoever wishes to be obeyed, should endeavour to render himself respected, and in order to succeed, should unite fortitude with vigilance. I had to guard against being abandoned by my people, or suffering them (by my weakness) to become disorderly; I therefore made use of a prudent reserve, to which I strictly adhered, never relaxing, during my whole journey, from this necessary precaution.

As soon as we stopped I gave directions to put the things in order in my presence, and under the inspection of two of my people on whom I had the most reliance for exactitude. I now sent my beasts to graze, and took a review of my waggons and effects, to be assured all was in proper condition ;



condition ; I examined even the traces and harness, assigned each man his employ, holding at the same time a short discourse on the different occupations they would hereafter have. From this they formed an idea of my carefulness and precaution, and felt that the least lapse of duty would not escape me ; after this ceremony I mounted my horse, and went to reconnoitre the road over the mountain, which we were to pass on the morrow. On my return I found the oxen disposed of as I had ordered, and a good fire burning ; we supped lightly on some provisions we had brought from the town, I in my waggon, the hottentots in the open air.

We were ready by day break to begin our journey over the mountains, at the risk of breaking our waggons, and laming our beasts ; at length we gained the summit. The road is full of chasms, steep, and so beset with broken pieces of rock,

that I could not but wonder how the only road by which the inhabitants of these cantons ever arrive at the Cape should be so neglected. There is a surprising prospect from the top of this mountain, comprising all the plantations which are scattered over an extensive hollow, formed between this and the opposite chain of mountains, quite to the sea.

We were obliged to unyoke the oxen, to give them some hours rest, and wishing to gain the plain by some easier descent, I profited by this short interval, and reconnoitred the spot. I was perfectly satisfied when I perceived the descent on the other side to be an easy pleasant slope, which would lead us, without danger, into a delightful country; the road was really commodious and easy for our waggons, and we descended with as much ease and pleasure as we had pain and difficulty in our ascent. The wild beasts seldom shew themselves

themselves in these cantons, having therefore nothing to fear, we travelled until ten o'clock at night, when we arrived on the borders of the river *Palmit*, thus named by the Dutch, on account of the many reeds that grow on the borders.

In the morning, on our waking, we sought in vain for the oxen; they had disappeared, being not yet accustomed to rest by the side of our carriages. My people went in quest of them, and it took so much time to re-assemble them, that we were not ready for our departure until nine o'clock in the morning; about eleven we passed within fifteen paces of a habitation; the master of it no sooner saw my caravan than he came out to meet me. I found it to be the person from whom I had bought, at the Cape, my master waggon, and the five pair of oxen that drew it. I was obliged to stop and accept the pressing invitation he gave me to dine; especially  
when

when he informed me, that having learned at the Cape, on the day of my departure, what road I meant to take, he had set out immediately to prepare for my reception. I ordered my oxen to be unyoked, and went home with him, where I was received by his wife and daughters with great civility.

Viewing this plantation, and listening to his praises on the waggon he had sold me, with a recapitulation of the good qualities of the oxen that drew it, employed me till dinner time. To his honor he did not exaggerate; for I have since found those beasts much better than any others I have employed, and his waggon, being constructed with skill, ever resisted the roughest shocks in my hazardous journey.

Notwithstanding the entreaty of this good family to pass the night with them,  
I de-

I departed when I had dined. A few hours after we crossed the river *Bott*, and passed the whole of the canton called *Ouwe Hoeck*. I wished to regain the time lost at dinner, and it was eleven o'clock at night before we stopped at the side of a small standing water.

The sun was hardly risen when we recommenced our journey, and halted in the morning near the habitation of *Francis Batbenos*; he sent me a loaf that I wanted, but it was in vain to offer any thing for it: He likewise entreated me to come to his house; but I desired to be excused, not caring to pass my time in these habitations. I saw in this country a prodigious number of Gazells, which the colonists call *Reebock*, which is yet but little known. Mr. Sparman has only mentioned them. The name of this animal, in the French translation of that work, is, by mistake, rendered



rendered *Red Boek*, which this word does not signify.

The heat of the sun at mid-day was excessive, and obliged us to halt; in the mean time I took a short turn, and was fortunate enough to kill a *Reebock*.—The general colour is a light grey, darker on the back than the sides, the belly white, its horns are only five or six inches in length. Mr. Sparman, who says he only wrote from memory, was mistaken in saying, they were a foot long. The description and figure of this animal is to be found in my *Treatise on the Quadrupedes of Africa*.

I returned to my people.—We stayed no longer than was just necessary to broil some part of my game. And in the space of four leagues, which we afterwards went to gain a commodious encampment, we had on all sides, very near us, Gazells, Bontibocks,



Bontibocks, (the *Antelope Scripta* of Mr. Pallas) Bubales (the *Antelope Bubalis*) with numbers of Zebras, Ostrichs, &c. &c.

The variety and appearance of this large troop of animals was extremely amusing, and highly worthy the pen of a naturalist.

My dogs eagerly pursued these creatures, who mingled as they fled, and altogether formed one vast herd; but the moment I had called off my dogs, and they thought themselves out of danger, each different specie composed a separate band, and kept at a certain distance from each other.—Had it not been for my dogs, who always kept them at a distance, I could have shot numbers of them from my waggons, for they were very tame, and seemed pleased to gaze on us.

Indeed.

Indeed, a kind of curiosity approaching to familiarity, seems to be the characteristic of all horned animals, particularly the Gazell. There were only the Zebras, and the Ostrichs that kept at a greater distance. I was now within four or five leagues of the hot baths so much cried up and visited by the inhabitants of the Cape. I was anxious to see them; but I was afraid my journey would be too much retarded by it. To gain, therefore, on the one hand what I lost on the other, I resolved to set out earlier in the morning than usual; by ten o'clock we reached them.

This spring of mineral waters, so generally esteemed, is about thirty leagues distance from the Cape. Government has raised a very spacious and convenient building, for the use of those valetudinarians who frequent those baths. Lodging, it is true, costs nothing here; but the invalid is obliged to provide necessaries, and these  
are

are not very easily procured in this country.

There is in this place two baths, the one for the whites, the other for blacks, and the mountain called the *Tower of Babel*, is not far from this place, whose height *Kolben* has so greatly exaggerated ; I suppose 'tis nearly as high as table mountain. All round this mountain the company have got enclosures, where, under the inspection of an officer appointed for that purpose, they fatten large herds of cattle, with which they victual their shipping.

I crossed, the next day, the river *Steenbock*, not far from which is a beautiful habitation of the widow *Wissel* ; and just after I crossed a second river ; in passing this I saw the hospital designed for the company's cattle.

They

They sometimes get cured here, but in other respects this establishment is of great utility, as it prevents contagious disorders from infesting those who are healthy, and from whom they are separated immediately on their shewing any signs of indisposition.

I had resolved to travel the greater part of the night, but was obliged to stop at nine o'clock, in the valley of *Soete-Melck*, which is a deep morass; fearing to proceed, as it would have been highly imprudent to have attempted crossing it during the night. Early in the morning I saw a very pretty house at a small distance from us; it was a post belonging to the company, and commanded by *M. Martines*. I knew him by having seen him at the Fiscal's. I went to visit him; like the rest of the colonists, he would fain have engaged me to remain there some days; but

but my impatience to continue our route made me decline it.

About mid-day I passed a little *Horde* belonging to some Hottentots, who appeared so poor and miserable, that it induced me to make them some little presents.— They had not a single beast, but lived by labouring in the neighbouring plantations. I invited some to accompany me, promising to pay them well on my return; but my persuasions were useless, until I had assured them they should have a sufficient quantity of tobacco the whole way; they then promised to be with me the next day.

I passed the night at *Tiger Hoek*, where I waited for my recruits 'till nine o'clock in the morning, I had just given them up, and was preparing to pursue my journey, when three of them arrived with their arms and baggage; this little reinforcement gave me great pleasure, they mixed



with the others and were soon acquainted. I delayed my departure until the afternoon, as I wished to view the country; one of my new comers requested to accompany me, with assurances that he was an excellent huntsman. I had brought from Europe the common opinion formed of people who praise themselves, and did not set a very high estimate on my Hottentot's abilities; however I ordered him a gun, and we set out together. We soon met with a flock of Gazells, the face of the country was absolutely covered with them, but they kept out of gun-shot. After having run a long time to no purpose, my companion stopped suddenly, telling me he saw a *Blawe Bouc*, (a blue Bock.) Laying down I turned my eyes the way he directed, but could not see it; he desired me to stand quite still, assuring me he would soon give a good account of it; he then turned from me, creeping on his knees. I did not lose sight of him. His method of hunting

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ing being quite new, engaged my attention. The animal at length arose, and began grazing; it had to me the appearance of a white horse, for at the distance I then was, it looked entirely of that colour. I had never before seen any of this kind of Gazells, however I was undeceived when I saw the horns; my hottentot approached so near that the surprise of the animal and the firing of his piece were instantaneous; the Gazell fell, and I ran with haste to contemplate at my ease the most scarce and beautiful species of the African Gazells. I assured my Hottentot I would recompense him on my return to the camp. I then sent him for a horse to carry home our game. The knowledge this man had shewn in surprising the animal, rendering his service important and necessary, determined me to engage him by all the little baits that delight the Hottentots; I gave him a good stock of tobacco, a steel, some tinder and one of my best  
K 2 knives,

knives, which he immediately began to use, skinning the animal with as much dexterity as he had shot it.

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## C H A P. VII.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE GAZELL—OF THE TOR-  
TOISE — MANNER OF TAKING THEM — THE  
AUTHOR'S MONKEY DESCRIBED.

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**T**HIS Gazell has been described by *Pennant*, under the name of the blue Antelope; and by *Buffon*, under that of the Tzeran. This last mentioned naturalist has added a drawing of part of its  
horns;

horns ; it is scarce and very little known, for during the whole time of my being in Africa, I never saw but three, and one of these was presented to the Governor some years after while I resided at Cape Town ; it came as well as mine from the valley *Soete-Melk*, the only canton where they are to be found. I had been assured there were some in the country of the great *Namaquois* ; but notwithstanding all my information and enquiries, I found I had been deceived in this particular ; for all the savages which inhabit that country have assured me they knew nothing of it. I had been informed likewise that the females had horns as well as the males. I can say nothing to this, as all I saw were of the latter sort. Their prevailing colour is light blue, rather inclining to the grey ; the belly and the whole inner part of the legs are as white as snow, and its head is beautifully spotted with white. I never remarked that the skin of this animal

while living, resembled blue velvet, but changed its colour when dead ; as we are assured by M. Sparman. Dead or living I never perceived any difference ; the colour of those I had never varied. I have seen one of them at Amsterdam, (which they have had there these fifteen years) that exactly resembles the Governor's, at the Cape ; it is in better preservation than mine, but in other respects the same. I cannot help adding in this place, that I did not know this animal from the engravings I had formerly seen of it. With my description I shall give a very exact drawing of this creature, taken on the spot.

The next day, the air being fresh and pleasant, we travelled for six hours, till we gained the borders of a considerable lake, which abounds in little tortoises ; we caught about twenty of them, and when broiled they are excellent food. They are about seven or eight inches long, and four inches  
over ;

over; the shell is of a light grey colour, rather inclining to yellow; while living they have a disagreeable smell which is lost in dressing.

It is remarkable that when the excessive heats have dried up all the water, in proportion as the surface becomes dry, the Tortoises bury themselves at different depths in the earth, where, if not disturbed, they remain in a torpid state, neither shewing themselves nor awaking 'till the return of the rainy season. They lay their eggs in the open air, on the borders of the small lakes and moors, and leave to the sun the care of hatching them. These eggs (which are about the size of those laid by pigeons) are very well tasted, the white never hardens from dressing, but remains a transparent blue jelly.

I am unacquainted whether this method of burying themselves is an instinct com-



mon to all the different species of Tortoises, but I found, whenever I had an inclination for any of these, that it was only necessary to turn up the earth in the places where the water had remained longest, when I never failed to procure as many of them as I pleased.

This kind of Tortoise hunt, if I may so call it, was not new to me ; when at Surinam I remember to have seen the same stratagem made use of to take two species of fish, the one called *Varrappe*, the other *Gorret*, or *Kwikwi*, which likewise bury themselves in the earth.

Our waggons, which were placed on the borders of the lake, affrighted the Gazells that frequented it, and prevented them from drinking. The Bontibocks, especially, come for this purpose, to the number of two thousands in a flock ; and I am persuaded, that of Bubales, Gazells of all species,



species, Zebras and Ostriches, I had in my view, at one time, not less than four or five thousand. I only wished for an Ostrich, but it was impossible to approach them. The other animals, though fearful, were often within gun shot; but as I was not in want of provisions, I did not wish to destroy them.

There was only the *Breed-river* and the *Klip-river*, between Swillendam and the spot I now occupied; I wished to see that colony, where I intended to pass some days, and take a particular view of all the animals I had collected. I set off accordingly, and we arrived there early the next day.

Of all the rivers we had crossed in this country, the *Diep-river*, and the *Breed-river* are the most considerable; the others scarcely deserve the name of rivulets during the heats, though, in the rainy season, they

they swell to furious torrents, and cut off all communication with the Cape.

I stayed several days at Swellendam, with Mr. Ryneveld, bailiff of the place, who treated me with the greatest civility. I found my two waggons were overloaded, and wished to procure some other carriage; this generous host had one constructed with two wheels, which, at my departure, he presented me with, and likewise a profusion of fresh provision.

I hired some additional Hottentots; recruited my stock of live animals with several oxen, some goats, a cow to furnish me with milk, and a cock; this last I considered as a kind of natural alarm, which would serve to wake me of a morning.

Every naturalist, I might say every country clown, knows that the cock crows regularly

regularly in the course of the night, at the same hour ; and that he never fails to announce the approach of day.

I can't conceive that there was any thing to ridicule in this precaution, which, if not necessary, was, at least amusing ; yet the critics, in more than one public paper, have been pleased to divert themselves at my expence, on that account. They have assured the public in my name, that I meant the cock should serve as a substitute for my watch, in case it happened to be deranged by any accident. They have added, with the same temper, in another place, that "meeting for the first time with a lion, we gazed proudly on each other, and then passed quietly on, mutually satisfied with our majestic countenances." But, notwithstanding these gentlemen chose to be pleasant on the occasion, I found my expectations, in behalf of the cock, were not deceived ; he ever  
roosted

roosted on my tent, or waggon, and regularly announced the first appearance of aurora; he soon became familiar, and never wandered from my camp; or if, in search of provision, he strayed farther than usual, the approach of night constantly brought him back. When pursued by a small quadruped, of the pole-cat kind, I have seen him, half running, half flying, make the best of his way home, and crying, as if for help, with all his might; when one or other of my dogs never failed to hasten to his rescue.

An animal which rendered me still more essential service, whose diverting presence has suspended, nay, even dissipated a number of disagreeable and painful reflections; and whose provident instinct seemed to outstrip the efforts of my reason, was a monkey, of that kind commonly known at the Cape under the name of *Bawians*. He was very familiar, and particularly attached

attached to me; I made him my taster. Whenever we found any fruits, or roots, unknown to my Hottentots, we never attempted to eat them 'till they had been presented to *Kees*, and if rejected by him, we concluded they were either disagreeable, or dangerous, and abandoned them accordingly. Animals of the monkey kind seem distinguished from others by their similarity to the human species.

Nature has furnished this creature with an equal quantity of gluttony and curiosity; without appetite he will taste every thing that is presented to him; without necessity he will examine every thing he can lay his paws on. *Kees* possessed another quality still more estimable than those I have already mentioned: His extreme vigilance rendered him my greatest safeguard both day and night. The approach of the smallest danger roused him in an instant; by his cries and frightened gestures  
we



we received intimation of the enemy, even before my dogs suspected it. They were accustomed to his voice and manner, and seemed to rely so much on his care, that they slept at their ease; and I was not without my fears, that if death should deprive me of my faithful guardian, I should not find that security from them I had flattered myself with, and which I thought I had a right to expect. When once *Kees* had raised them, they seemed very attentive to his signals; they watched his eyes and motions, and I observed never failed to run all together towards the spot that his looks were directed to. I often took him a shooting with me; what gambols! what expressions of joy! would he manifest on seeing me prepare to depart: he would leap upon and caress me, seeming by his looks and actions to entreat me to hasten my departure, and express his gratitude for admitting him to be of my party.

During



During our journey he would amuse himself with climbing the trees to search for gum, which he was very fond of; sometimes he discovered honey in the crevices of the rock, or in hollow trees; but when he happened not to find any thing of this sort, and his appetite, sharpened by fatigue and exercise, urged him more forcibly to seek a supply, a scene commenced which, to me, was extremely entertaining: In these emergencies he would dig for roots, which, when found, were presently demolished. He seemed particularly fond of a kind which, unluckily for him, I also found extremely good and refreshing, and ever obstinately persisted in partaking with him.

• *Kees* was artful; and if he happened to find any of this root when I was at a distance from him, in order to prevent my coming in for my share, would eat it up with the greatest

greatest eagerness, fixing, at the same time, his eyes ardently on me; and seeming to calculate, by the distance I was at, the time I should be getting to him. I observed his haste was ever in proportion to the danger he supposed he run of loosing a part of his prize; and, in general, he was too quick for me; but sometimes, having found more than he had time to make away with, he would endeavour to conceal it on my coming up with him; on these occasions I usually favoured him with a good box on the ear, which never failed to make him give up the residue, when he was obliged to content himself with the part I chose to allot him. *Kees* never entertained any animosity, though I sometimes gave him occasion, by keeping the whole, to reflect on that greedy selfishness of which he had set the example.

He had a very ingenious method of coming at these roots, which used to  
amuse

amuse me extremely: He took the tuft of leaves between his teeth, then bearing upon his fore paws, forced back his head, and generally drew out the root to which they adhered. When this means, which required all his strength, happened to fail, he again took hold of it closer to the earth, and giving a sudden spring, never failed to draw it up with him.

In our walks, when he found himself fatigued, he would mount upon the back of one or other of my dogs, who usually had the complaisance to carry him, even for hours together ; but there was one among them bigger and stronger than the rest, and who ought rather to have offered his service on these occasions, that had a droll method of getting rid of his burthen : The moment he felt *Kees* upon his shoulders he became immoveable, and suffered me to proceed with the rest of the dogs without stirring from the spot. *Kees*, rather

VOL. I. L obstinate

obstinate on his part, would usually maintain his seat 'till I had almost got out of sight; when, fearful of being left behind, he was constrained to alight; and then both monkey and dog used to set off full speed to rejoin us; but I observed the dog always let *Kees* keep a head, taking care that he should not surprise him a second time. He had acquired over the rest of my pack an ascendancy, which was, doubtless, owing to the superiority of his instinct; for with animals as among men, it is frequently observable, that address subdues strength.

*Kees* never cared to have company at his meals; and when any of my dogs approached too near his mess, he was sure to treat them with a box on the ear, which was always sufficient to make the cowardly animals make the best use of their legs.

One

One singularity which I never could account for, was, that next to the serpent, he was most afraid of his own species. Whether he was sensible that his present domestic state had deprived him of part of his faculties, or was fearful that any other should partake of my kindness ; for I could easily have taken some wild ones, and tamed them ; but I never had any such intention ; I had an attachment for *Kees*, which prevented my wishing for any other of his kind.

He sometimes heard the monkeys screaming in the mountains ; and, notwithstanding his fears, seemed instinctively to answer their cries ; but when any one appeared, he ran with the utmost precipitation, and trembling with fear, seemed to implore our protection.

At these times we always had enough to do to calm his terror. He was a great  
i 2 thief,



thief, which is a fault common to domestic animals; but in *Kees* this vice seemed a talent, the ingenuity of which I could not help admiring. My people, who were not always inclined to take his thieveries in good part, frequently corrected him; but it was all in vain, they never could reform him in this particular. He knew perfectly well how to untie the cords which fastened the baskets, in order to help himself to provision, especially milk, which he was very fond of, and several times, in consequence of this, I have been obliged to go without. I sometimes beat him myself for his mischievous tricks, after which he usually made his escape, and would not return to the tent 'till it began to grow dark.

I have hung on these details with pleasure. If they do not tend to the instruction of mankind, they are interesting to a soul like mine, delighted with the most  
simple



simple objects ; recollecting with pleasure my innocent pastimes, my days of peace, and only moments of my life in which I was sensible of the whole value of my existence.

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## CHAP. VIII.

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FIDELITY OF A DOG—THE AUTHOR'S REFLECTIONS ON LIBERTY—MANNER OF PASSING HIS TIME IN CAMP—REMITTS HIS COLLECTION TO THE CAPE—CROSSES A RIVER ON RAFTS—ARRIVES AT MUSCLE BAY.

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WHILE I remained at Swillendam, the friendly behaviour of my host inspired me with the liveliest gratitude ;

but it was a life not suiting my humour, therefore, as soon as my cart was finished, I placed in it my kitchen utensils, and without delay proceeded on my journey, on the 12th of January, 1782. From the information I had gained, I took an easterly course, keeping a convenient distance from the sea. The corn farms reached no further on this side, the moderate price that article bears, not being equivalent to the expence and difficulty of sending it to town.

I passed a little river called *Buffias*; and after two days journey, arrived at a wood named *le Bois de grand Pere*. I determined to stay here 'till the next day, and prepared accordingly, wishing to explore the wood. In calling my dogs, I observed that a little bitch, named *Rosette*, which I was very fond of, was wanting. Concerned at its absence (as it was a real loss to my pack) I enquired of all my people  
whether

whether they had seen her on the road ; one, only, assured me he had fed her in the morning. After an hour or two spent in fruitless searches, I sent out my Hottentots to call on all sides, and fired my piece several times, thinking the report might reach, and put her on the scent. When I saw these endeavours did not succeed, I ordered one of the men to mount my horse, and return the way we came, directing him to spare no pains in tracing my favorite.

In about four hours we saw the messenger returning on the full gallop, carrying before him, on the pommel of the saddle, a chair and a large basket ; Rosette was running before, appearing as pleased to see me, as I was satisfied with her return.

The Hottentot informed me he had found her at about two leagues distance,

seated in the road, by the side of the chair and basket, which had dropped from our waggon without being perceived. I had heard much of the fidelity of dogs, in similar cases; but this was the first instance I had ever witnessed.

I own the little recital affected me; and the proof she had given of her attachment made her still more valuable. If my man had not been successful in his search, she must have perished with hunger, or have been a prey to some wild beast. The guns I had fired to bring her in sprung no game; and a survey of the forest convinced me we should find none on this spot; I determined, therefore, to continue our route on the morrow.

We had travelled about four leagues, when in crossing a river, my cart upset, and the rest of the day was employed in diving after, and drying, my kitchen furniture,  
and

and the other utensils it contained. A great part of my china, which was broken, we left behind; very fortunately, I had a reserve in the waggon.

In the evening we pursued our way for three leagues: we were then stopped by the river *Duyvenochs*, which was not fordable at that time. The country round being covered with wood, I flattered myself I should meet with some curious birds and insects; therefore resolved to wait here 'till the river sunk, and ordered my Hottentots to pitch the tents on the border of the wood, and erect some huts for themselves.

The inhabitants of the environs hearing of my arrival, came with great kindness on a visit. Though it was disturbing me in this charming retreat, I was obliged to bear their obliging reproaches, for not visiting their habitations, to which  
they



they urged me by every possible method ; telling me the number of curious travellers they had entertained ; and naming, among others, Mr. Sparman. Though the example was very respectable, I could not be persuaded to leave my camp. I determined, in the future course of my travels, not to stop at any habitation ; to be free day and night ; to have, perpetually, under my inspection, my attendants and carriages ; in short, not to sacrifice my time, which was precious, to the absurd recitals, foolish tales, and idle questions, with which the colonists abound. It was likewise necessary to be sparing of my brandy, with which I was ever obliged to wet their uninteresting, tedious discourses ; I therefore thanked the gentlemen for their kind invitations ; but at the same time strictly adhered to my resolution.

The example of Mr. Sparman was nothing to me ; our pursuits were different,  
confe-



consequently our ideas were not likely to accord ; the day was sufficient for his botanical searches, but I frequently passed whole nights in hunting, and should, therefore, have been obliged to disturb and otherwise derange my entertainers, or alter my custom, neither of which I should easily have submitted to. Another motive, purely personal, may, in a few words, give a true idea of a temper which instigated me to this plan of life ; and if the reader finds a trait of self-love in it, my age, my country, education, and the difficulties I have encountered, must plead my excuse.

I acknowledge, the force of custom in civilized society, is often pleaded by those inanimate beings who chuse to saunter on in one dull uniform track ; but habituated at Surinam from my youth to freedom, every infringement (to me) seemed a tax on liberty. Man, justly proud of his superiority over the irrational creation, should  
not

not be circumscribed in his steps, and I have ever cautiously avoided beaten paths, or fixed maxims.

In the midst of the deserts, surrounded by the rocks and forests of Africa, my independence was compleat; there I was sure to see no trace of human art but what myself should form; it was there I truly found that man was lord of the creation. This humour marked the early part of my life, and is the pure and natural sentiment of liberty, which repulses with disdain every infringement on its right; many reasons attached me to these principles, and I so well adhered to them, that I never broke on my original plan but once, during my travels.

To give some idea of our order and usual occupations, when we put up at night, I slept in my tent, or waggon; at break of day, awakened by the crowing of my cock,

I prepared coffee for breakfast, while my Hottentots on their part were employed in cleaning and preparing the oxen; at sunrise I took my gun, and attended by my monkey, searched about until ten o'clock, on our return I ever found the tent clean swept; this was particularly the business of an old African, called Swanepoel, who was not able to follow us on foot, therefore stayed behind to keep all in order.

I had not much furniture in my tent, the utensils consisted of two chairs, a table, on which I dissected my animals, and some instruments for preparing them. I usually employed myself that way from ten till twelve o'clock, or in arranging the different insects I had procured in the drawers. My method of dining was not very sumptuous; I placed on my knee a bit of plank covered with a napkin, and was then served with a single plate of roast or boiled meat; this frugal meal ended, I returned  
to

to my work, if I had not finished it before, after which I went a hunting 'till sun set. On my return I passed some hours in setting down in the journal, my observations, acquisitions, and all the transactions of the day ; during this time my men were employed in gathering the cattle round the tent ; my goats, after being milked, laying down to sleep with the dogs.

Our business done, and a great fire made, we sat down in a circle, and while I was taking tea, the men were smoaking their pipes, and telling stories so very ridiculous, that they occasioned me much mirth. I took great pleasure in seeing them chearful, and my freedom and good humour banished in those meetings timidity and fear ; the dispute then was whose story should most amuse, and the profound silence which reigned among us, might have flattered the most expert reciter.

Sometimes

Sometimes indeed, more pleased with my own reflections, I felt myself drawn by an involuntary impulse to contemplate the beauties of a calm and serene evening, after the heat and fatigues of the day. In what lively colours does memory frequently paint those charming peaceful habitations! Methinks I am seated in my camp, surrounded by my people, a plant—a flower—a piece of rock, scattered here and there—nothing escapes my recollection, and the charming idea interests, amuses and delights me.

Sometimes our discourse led us beyond the usual hour, and I must own, these uneducated people had often strokes of wit and humour in their conversation that surprised me: I questioned them particularly on Colben, and the different accounts authors give of their religion, laws and customs; some of these interrogatories would occasion them to laugh in my face, at other times



times they were downright angry, supposing these enquiries were meant either to teaze, or undervalue their faculties and knowledge. I sometimes described that set of beings, who in great cities, procure by their finesse an elegant subsistence, and are entitled *Chevaliers d'Industre*; I represented in a thousand forms the tricks of these cameliions, and painted them in the most flattering colours; with what pleasure did I see my Hottentots unanimously prefer the simplicity of their country to these seducing pictures; looking on such resources as vile and illiberal in men, who boast a superiority over those who are only instructed by nature.

Worthy injured people! whom so many have taken pleasure to represent as unnatural monsters, devouring each other, an infant might lead ye! Peaceful Hottentots! behold with disdain those harsh invaders who first reduced to slavery, then  
basely.



basely traduced and placed ye on a level with the brutes.

My animals were so accustomed to mix with us, that I was frequently obliged to disturb several before I could enter my tent. I had some sheep which I reserved in case of scarcity; and I took particular care of some old ones who were very serviceable in accustoming the new comers to feed near my camp.

This part of the country abounded with partridges, they were of three different species, one of which was as large as a pheasant; these were our common food, and we frequently boiled twenty at a time, which mode of cooking afforded excellent broth.

Here was also a species of Gazells, about the size of our European goats, whose skins were of a dark brown, with some

spots of white on the thighs ; they were very fine food. I also shot several of another kind, much smaller, and which I shall hereafter describe.

My stay in this place had considerably augmented my collection of insects, and curious birds ; a colonist in the environs who was going to the Cape, offered his service if I had any commands ; I accepted it with great satisfaction, consigning to his care my little treasure, to be taken to M. Boers. I had told that gentleman, if opportunity offered, I would remit my collection in parcels as I could to him, since by that means they would be in safety, and make room for others I might gather.

My neighbours used often to send me presents of vegetables, or fruits, and Mr. Vanwerck, who lived near my camp, knowing I was fond of milk, sent me a pailful every night, which I shared with my people.

*Kees*

*Kees* ever scented the carrier at a distance, and hastened to meet him.

From *Swellendam* to *Duyvenochs*, the pastures are good, and the land much superior to that near the Cape; it produces excellent corn, and in great quantities, but the colonists cultivate no more than serves for their own consumption, supplying the Cape only with beasts and butter. There are likewise some vineyards, but the wine is bad, serving only for the Brandy or Vinegar which is consumed in the neighbourhood.

On the twenty-seventh, the river being greatly sunk, we crossed it without danger, and also False River. After thirteen hours travel we reached that of the *Gous*, or *Gourits*, where we were obliged to stop, for it was impossible to cross it, being as wide as that part of the Seine that fronts the King's-gardens, at Paris. Some great  
M 2 inundation

inundation must have overwhelmed part of the country, through which it takes its course; for in this season it is ordinarily like the others, a fordable rivulet. On the borders grow quantities of large thorny trees, as the *Mimosa*, *Nilotica*; it likewise abounds with partridges, of that kind which the inhabitants of the Cape call *Fesants*.

After three days encampment, as the river did not sink, and being impatient to continue my rout, I determined to construct a raft, and for that purpose felled some large trees; the bark answering the purpose of cordage. This was a work of infinite labour, being obliged to unload, take our waggons to pieces, and carry them and the goods over at several turns; the cattle swam the stream in perfect safety, neither they, the people, or effects sustaining the least injury.

This

This attempt answering so well, gave me fresh courage, though it cost us three days hard toil, not allowing us even time for hunting: In all our labour I ever set the example, working as much as any of the Hottentots; in this instance it was particularly necessary, for our common safety, to use dispatch in quitting our situation, which was so barren, that had our stay been prolonged, the cattle must have perished with hunger.

The waggons being put together and reloaded, we continued our way, travelling fourteen leagues in two days, which brought us to Muscle Bay, this in the charts bears the name of *Bay Saint Blaise*; the anchorage here is very difficult, on account of the craggy rocks that surround it, and extend far into the sea; but on the North-side there is a flat shore, of no great extent, where shallops may approach with safety.



A number of good habitations are scattered about the adjoining country, which are a resource to vessels that anchor in the bay. We here procured Oysters in great quantities ; sometimes we angled, and by this means furnished ourselves with plenty of excellent fish, as we had more than we could use, I caused part of them to be salted.

Every night we heard the howlings of the Hyæna, which terrified our oxen, but by means of the great fires that surrounded our camp, we kept them at a distance.

A league from this place there is a *Kraal*, of about four huts, belonging to a Hottentot family, consisting of twenty-five people; I changed some tobacco with them for mats, which I much wanted. I was pleased with my discovery of this little settlement, not for the necessaries I received of them, but for the advantage of considering



considering their peaceful manners. They had five cows and a small flock of sheep; in the proper season the men laboured in the neighbouring plantation, earning what procured them tobacco, and other little necessities.

They assured me, that in the woods (with which the mountains are covered) they sometimes meet with Elephants and Buffaloes, but though I several times searched for them, my labour was in vain, neither my people nor myself discovering any thing; indeed I saw once the print of an Elephant's foot, though almost effaced, from which I conjectured that if chance should sometimes bring one of those animals into this neighbourhood, the inhabitants pursue and oblige it (when they cannot succeed in killing it) to gain the more distant parts.

M 4

CHAP.

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## C H A P. IX.

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THE AUTHOR CROSSES THE RIVER KLEIN-  
BRAK—DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY OF  
AUTENIQUAS—POLITELY RECEIVED BY MR.  
MULDER—SHOOTS A TOURACO—FALLS INTO  
A PITT.

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ON the seventh, at five o'clock in the morning, I left Muscle Bay, and at one o'clock crossed the river called *Klein-Brak*, which rises in a wood behind the chain of mountains at about a league from the sea. The next day we reached the  
great

great river of the same name, which is only three leagues farther; the tide flows a considerable way up, and renders its water brackish. We were obliged to wait 'till the ebb, in order to cross without danger. In this interval I shot several Pelicans, and Phœnicopteres, or Flamingoes, which were in great abundance; the deep red of the one, contrasted with the extreme whiteness of the other, produces a very pleasing affect on the eye.

In quitting the river we had a very steep mountain to ascend, the sight of it somewhat alarmed me, but patience, care and time, brought us to the summit, when we were well recompensed for our fatigue by a beautiful prospect that presented itself to our view, of one of the finest countries in the world, Eastward the vast chain of mountains, covered with forests, bounded the prospect; underneath an immense valley, that extended to the sea shore, interspersed

spersed with little hillocks of various forms; the excellent pastures, enameled with flowers, added a heightening to the scene, which gave me infinite delight. This country bears the name of *Auteniquas*, which in the Hottentot language signifies a man loaded with honey; in effect you cannot walk a step without meeting with swarms of bees. The earth is covered with flowers, whose mingled perfumes delight the smell, and invite you to loiter in this charming spot, where every beauty that imagination ever gave to fairy-land seems realized! The bells of almost all these flowers are impregnated with the ambrosial dews from which the bees collect their honey; this they deposit in hollow trees, or in the crevices of rocks. My people wished to remain in this delightful place, but fearing it might prove another Capua, I gave orders to continue our march towards the river *Wet-El*, which takes its name from the woods that shade the banks; we had  
now

now travelled seven leagues from the river *Klein-Brak*.

On the ninth we crossed several small rivulets that run from the mountains to the sea, these waters have the colour of Madeira, and taste of iron. Does this colour and taste proceed from some mine which they pass through, or from the roots and leaves they wash away and bring with them? I did not give myself time to unravel this mystery. We were near the last post maintained by the Company, which we gained after three hours hard travel.

I was now about to bid adieu to every vestige of human government, and mingle with those beings who live in a state of nature.

Mr. Mulder, the commander, came to receive me with great friendship; he has under him an inferior officer and fifteen  
men,

men, who have all been soldiers or sailors in the company's service: These cut wood for its use, and construct the waggons which convey it to the Cape. This is a most ridiculous contrivance; for, was the wood conveyed to Muscle-bay, one small bark would transport in a single voyage, as much as they carry, in the usual manner, in three years, which would certainly be a considerable saving to the company, and of general utility to the colonies, as well as to the inhabitants of Cape-Town, who would not then be necessitated to burn only brush faggots, which are gathered at great expence in the neighbourhood, by slaves kept for that purpose; and cost at least double the price of the best wood that can be procured in Paris.

Would any one believe, that the India directors send every year, from Amsterdam, several ships loaded with plank of all kinds,



kinds, a passage of more than two thousand leagues, into a country abounding with immense forests of the finest timber in the world? But this is accounted for, when we are informed that the company furnishes the governor and officers with all the wood they want, delivered at their habitations clear of expence; so that they have no personal interest that can engage them to extend their views of administration so far; or to destroy an abuse, which is contrary to the ease and interest of the colonies.

All the country of *Auteniquas*, from the mountains to the sea, is inhabited by colonists, who breed vast quantities of cattle, make butter, gather honey, and cut wood, all which articles are sent to the Cape. I was almost exasperated to see these people, who have such plenty of timber at hand, dispose of all they could cut, not building themselves tenable houses, but living in  
mise-

miserable huts, formed of hurdles, covered with earth. The skin of a buffalo, tied by the corners to four stakes, serves as a bed ; a mat closes the entrance, which is also the window ; two or three broken chairs, some pieces of plank by way of table, and a miserable box of about two feet square compose the whole furniture of one of these dens. The extreme misery of the dwellings disagreeably contrasts the charms of this terrestrial paradise, whose beauties extend beyond the limits of *Auteniquas*. In other respects these people live luxuriously ; they have plenty of game and sea-fish, and enjoy an advantage over the other colonists, in having, all the year, without interruption, their gardens well stocked with vegetables.

They owe these advantages both to the goodness of the soil, and the natural waterings from the various rivulets that wind and cross each other in a thousand different direc-

directions ; and lay under contribution (if I may so express myself) the four seasons of the year.

These streams, which are never dry, have their source in the high western mountains, which being covered with immense forests, stop and collect the fogs and mists that are brought over them by the east winds from the sea, and occasion frequent rains.

It being convenient for me to remain some days with the commander, I broke in upon my established plan ; for besides the polite reasons I had for waiting on him, his civility and friendship were expressed with such warmth, that I could not possibly excuse myself ; and perhaps he received some pleasure, by reflecting on the character of kindness and hospitality, which in justice I could not fail to render him, on my return to the Cape.

I con-

I continued, according to my usual custom, to survey the country; in the woods I found the prints of buffalos and elephants feet, which appeared fresh made. I also saw a number of different birds, which were unknown to me, particularly the *Touraco*; so many incentives were not necessary to detain me in the neighbourhood of this place; especially, as at four or five leagues distance from Mr. Mulder's, I found, on the skirts of a forest, a situation very convenient for my camp.

Mr. Mulder was preparing to depart for the Cape; he furnished me with twenty pounds of gun-powder; and I profited by this occasion to write to my friends, and remit to Mr. Boers, a hundred curious birds and a box of insects. I likewise made an addition to my team of oxen, engaged three more Hottentots, and purchased a young horse, which I intended to break for hunting.

On

On the 9th of February I took leave of Mr. and Madam Mulder, with design to take possession of the great forest, and encamp on the spot which I had already chosen.

I had sent part of my people before me, to cut down some trees, clear away the brambles, and make some other necessary preparations for pitching my tent, which were carefully executed.

Our kitchen was placed under a great tree, which was very convenient for that purpose; my Hottentots arranged every thing in the best manner in their power, and constructed themselves some huts. At about ten paces from us was a limpid stream, and at a little distance a gentle hill, covered with grass, for our cattle; who, finding plenty of pasture, were sure to be always at hand. Many conveniences rendered this halt agreeable; but we were



several times obliged to change our situation, in quest of game; which, frightened by the frequent firing, became scarce, and would have entirely abandoned us.

I was sometimes visited by the inhabitants of this district, by which means I readily procured fruits, vegetables, milk, and whatever they could supply me with; to say the truth, their visits cost me some bottles of brandy; but as I was not fond of spirits, and never partook of them, except as a cordial, my reserve in that respect kept them within bounds, and the wounds given to my caïks were not very deep.

I well knew, that in the wood where I had fixed my camp, I might procure some *Touracos*; I was totally unacquainted with these birds, but was determined to go in quest of one. I soon perceived some, which I pursued in vain, for they always perch



perch on the extremities of the highest branches, and were never within reach of my gun. One day, after dinner, I pursued one with great eagerness; he was hopping from bough to bough, and seemed to mock my efforts for a whole hour; in this time I had followed him a considerable way; impatient at not being able to get near him, I fired at random, and at last had the satisfaction to see him fall. My joy was inexpressible; but the worst was to come, as I had yet to find my prize. I remarked the place where he fell, and ran among the brambles to pick it up; in my efforts to arrive at the spot, I violently tore my hands and legs, but my search was in vain; I examined every bush, I beat the same thicket twenty times over, all my cares were useless; the *Touraco* was no where to be found.

On reflection I concluded that I had only broken one of its wings, which

N 2

might

might not prevent its getting a considerable way from the place where it fell; I therefore went further on, continuing my search for more than half an hour; still no *Touraco* was to be seen. I was in despair; the thorns and briars, which had torn even to my face, added to the vexation of losing my bird, agitated me in a manner difficult to be described; and, in that moment, nothing less than a lion or tiger to pursue, could have glutted my rage. A pitiful bird—after so much pains and trouble—even after I had shot it to disappear!—I stamped with my feet, and struck the ground with my gun—on a sudden it gave way, and I disappeared myself, falling into a pit twelve feet deep! Astonishment, and the pain occasioned by my fall, took place of anger. I found myself at the bottom of one of those covered snares which the Hottentots dig for wild beasts, and particularly for the elephant.

When

When I had a little recovered from my fright, I began to think of the means of extricating myself; and was happy to find I was not impaled on the pointed stakes which they fix at the bottom; happier yet, that I had not met with company, which might, however, every moment arrive, particularly if I was obliged to remain there the whole night; the approach of which began to depress me with terror and consternation, as it would prevent my using the only means in my power to extricate myself from this fatal place, without assistance. My plan was to dig an ascent on one side, with my hanger; but this would require much time in the performance; I therefore took the resolution to charge my gun, which I continued firing as often as possible, hoping I should be heard at my camp. From time to time I listened, palpitating with impatience; presently I heard the report of two pieces, which gave me inexpressible joy.

I made no doubt but my people were seeking me, and continued firing by intervals, to direct them to the spot. They soon arrived, well armed, and in the greatest consternation; for they entertained no doubt but I was pursued by some wild beast; instead of which they found me caught, like a fox, in a trap.

My men immediately cut a large bough and put it down into the pit, by means of which I soon clambered out. This escape, which I thought almost as great a deliverance as the prophet Daniel's, did not make me forget the *Touraco*; my dogs had followed the Hottentots, and I thought I should be able, by their aid, to discover it. I was not disappointed; they found him in a thicket of brambles, and the pleasure I felt at having this charming bird in my possession, made me forget the pain and danger it had occasioned.

I found

I found in his craw a kind of fruit which they are particularly fond of, and it was to those trees I afterwards resorted, either when I wished to shoot, or spread snares to take them alive; and, by both these means, procured as many as I pleased.

This bird is as agreeable in its form and plumage, as in the sweetness and melody of its notes; it is of a bright green, a tuft of the same colour, bordered with white, adorns its head; its eyes a bright red, with a streak over them of the most dazzling white; its wings are a beautiful purple, varying to the violet, according to the point of light in which it is viewed.

Those naturalists who have reckoned it a species of the cuckow have been guilty of a mistake; for it has not the least affinity with them.

In every part of the world, the cuckow subsists on snails, and insects; but the *Tou-raco* is frugivorous.

In whatever climate the cuckow may be, 'tis remarkable, that she never builds a nest, but lays her eggs in those of other birds, and by this means escapes the trouble of rearing her young; while the *Tou-raco*, on the contrary, is careful of its family, builds a nest, and hatches her own eggs.

This difference in their dispositions is, I think, a sufficient reason to prove them a particular species. But I shall speak more of it in my Ornithology.



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## CHAP. X.

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ACCOUNT OF A NEW MODE OF SHOOTING—EXTRAORDINARY RAINS—GREATLY DISTRESSED FOR FOOD—ARRIVES AT PAMPOEN-KRAAL—DESCRIPTION OF IT—FISHING PARTY—IN DANGER FROM A BUFFALO.

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WHEN rains, or unbearable heats, interrupted my researches, I was not idle, but employed those intervals, which were not frequent, in my tent, making traps and snares to take different kinds of birds and animals alive; but it will hardly be believed, that I contrived to obtain the smallest and most delicate birds

birds with my gun, in a less injured state than I could procure them by any other means.

It may not be amiss for the sake of naturalists, who, like me, take pains to gather a collection of birds, &c. to mention the method I *invented*. I run no hazard in making use of this expression, as I believe no other person ever had an idea of it.—Having charged my gun with such a quantity of powder as I thought, according to the size or distance of the bird, would answer the purpose, I ran over it a layer of melted tallow, about half an inch in thickness, and pressed all close with my ram-rod; I then filled up the barrel of the piece with water, and, when at a proper distance from the game, discharged its contents, which only stunned and wet his wings. This never failed to bring him to the ground, and give me an opportunity of picking it up before it  
had

had time to beat itself, and damage the plumage; which is frequently the case when taken in a snare.

The force of the powder usually carried the water to its mark; while the tallow being lighter, scattered, and was lost by the way.

In my first experiments, when I have been too near, or had charged with too much powder, or more fat than was necessary, I have found it intire in the body of the bird; but by a little practice, I learned how to adjust the requisite proportions in such a manner as seldom to fail of success. I suppose it is unnecessary to add, that the game must be considerably above you, since one may easily divine, that when charged in this manner, it is impossible to fire in a horizontal direction.

Since

Since my return to Europe, being one day at a friend's house in the country, some in company, who were totally unknown to me, were speaking of the method I have just described ; one among them, in opposition to the rest, maintained by very specious arguments, that my account must be, at least, greatly exaggerated.

While they were disputing I withdrew, and having prepared a fowling-piece, presented myself before a window that overlooked the garden ; the gentlemen were still arguing ; I made them observe a small bird that was perched on the bough of a tree ; I shot at it—it fell—and I had the satisfaction of delivering it alive into the hands of the reasoner, who was now compleatly silenced.

Towards the end of the month we could not continue our journey, for the prodigious and almost incessant rains that  
fell ;

fell; the thunder broke several times in the forest, very near our camp. The waters insensibly gained upon us from all parts; and, to complete our misfortunes, in one night we were intirely overflowed. We left the wood, and pitched our tent in a more elevated situation; but I saw with grief and concern, that it would be impossible to quit this place.

Those little rivulets that lately appeared so beautiful, were changed into furious torrents, which bore away sands, trees, and even pieces of rock; I saw it would be impossible to cross them without provoking the most imminent danger; to add to our disasters, the oxen left our camp, nor did I know which way to send after, or how to regain them.

My situation was truly alarming, and occasioned me some very uneasy hours; the Hottentots, worn out with fatigue,  
began

began to murmur ; our food began to be very scarce, not being able to shoot any game, or at least so small a quantity, that it was barely sufficient to support us ; and to render our misfortunes complete, we could procure no assistance from the neighbouring colonists.

What an afflicting moment ! this sudden inundation seemed to threaten Africa with another deluge. I endeavoured, however, to conceal part of my alarms from my melancholy companions, in whose looks of silent sorrow, fear was strongly painted.

Never was a greater alteration in so short a time ; our charming walks were destroyed, and rendered desolate, by the rushing waters ; the smiling face of the country was changed to an uninhabitable and gloomy desert ! In this distress I summoned up all my resolution, intreated my  
people



people to seek for our dispersed cattle, being determined to risk crossing one of the torrents, whatever might be the consequence. This attempt, which seemed to threaten inevitable destruction, was in a great measure the means of our preservation ; for one of my Hottentots, in pursuance of this design, seeking for the safest passage to cross at, perceived a Buffalo in the water, which from the freshness of its appearance, might probably have been drowned the preceding night.

He returned with exclamations of joy to inform us of this happy news ; indeed nothing could have been more welcome, as we were reduced to the greatest extremity for want of food. With some danger we dragged the animal to shore ; he was cut up on the spot ; the principal part being carried to my tent, the dogs (who had long fasted, and were reduced to moving skeletons) found in what we left behind

hind sufficient to satisfy their hunger, and returned home with extended sides.

In this world nothing is permanent! Misfortunes terminate as well as pleasures! The end of March brought change of weather, the rains were neither so frequent nor so violent, consequently the torrents were considerably sunk, and abated much of their rapidity. I sent four of my Hottentots to seek our oxen, who after some days absence returned with the major part of them; some were found returning back to my camp, who, it was supposed, had wandered as far as the great river *Saumache*; others had taken refuge in different plantations, the rest sheltering themselves in the best manner they could: In short, four only were missing, these my people could not find, nor did I ever gain any intelligence of them.

I prepared without delay to quit this unlucky spot, intending to pitch my tent on a hill at about three leagues distance, called *Pampoen Kraal*, I took advantage of two fine days, to dry my effects, which were much injured by the weather; and the skin of the Buffalo was of great use in repairing the damage the traces of our wag-gons had sustained. In the midst of these incessant rains and my uncomfortable reflections, I had been capable of some exertion: In the wood I discovered an old hollow tree, whose trunk secured me from the inclemency of the weather, here I sat the greatest part of the day watching for game, and shooting all that came within my reach; our wants had not extinguished my curiosity: a perpetual wish to acquire these natural treasures overbalanced every other consideration, and though fainting with hunger I was eager to augment my collection.

Spite of every impediment, I had preserved a number of objects unknown in Europe. I had the satisfaction to see my riches daily increase, having taken such precautions, that the water had not injured them.

We found no game of the deer kind in this wood, except the *Gazell Bosbok*, and another species rather smaller, which I have mentioned in passing the *Duiven Ochs*.

The plain (in addition to three sorts of partridges I have already specified) abounds in a bird called the *Red Pheasant*, its feet and breast, which are bare, being of that colour.

There are plenty of Hyænas and Tygers about this place, but no lions.

The serene weather and beautiful aspect of the sky, seemed now to promise us a recompense

recompense for our former cruel situation. The hill of *Pampoen Kraal*, where I had pitched my tent, pleased me extremely. At a little distance from it was an eminence covered with a thicket of thirty or forty feet diameter, whose trees and bushes were so interwoven with each other, that the whole seemed of one growth. I determined to make this my residence, and in pursuance of this design, had an opening of about seven feet high, and sufficiently wide to afford an easy passage, cleared to the center; here, by the help of our hatchets, we formed two compleat squares, in one of which I placed a table and chair, and named it my *Workshop*, the other I adorned with the kitchen utensils, and reckoned it my dining-room.

These recesses, naturally roofed with branches and leaves to an impenetrable thickness, were to me a most charming and refreshing retirement! Here, after the

O 2

morning's



morning's chase, when covered with dust and oppressed with heat, I would shelter myself from the mid-day sun; when fatigue had sharpened the appetite, how excellent was the repast! When thought stole on, how pleasing were my contemplations! or, if surprised by sleep, how gentle, how peaceful, were my slumbers!

Sumptuous grottos of our wealthy financiers, magnificent villas of English citizens, nabobs and plunderers, what are your purling streams, your cascades, your artificial mounts, zig-zag walks, bridges, statues, or all those objects which flatten on the sense, and fatigue the eye——what are ye when compared to the simple unaffected beauties of *Pampoen Kraal*!

Though loath to leave this charming solitude, I began to prepare for my departure. One day, while I was viewing the environs, and observing which road  
we



we might take with the greatest safety, I discovered at about a league distance from my camp, a very rapid torrent, which is called *Le trou de Kayman* (Cayman's hole) though I do not know why, for I never saw either Crocodile, or Aligator in this country.

The torrent rushes between two mountains, which are not very high, but excessive steep; on my right hand at about the distance of a thousand paces, was the sea; on the left woods and mountains, impassable for our beasts and carriages, and to attempt the dangerous passage of Cayman's hole, was my only resource. I was uneasy, even chagrined, to be thus obstructed at every step, and to find I had no sooner conquered one obstacle, than another started up.

Powerful as were my inclinations to proceed, the torrent was too much swelled

by the late rains to admit even a possibility of passing it with safety ; I feared for my cattle more than for my effects, which we might have contrived to carry over on rafts. In this predicament I had only to wait with patience till the water should be abated.

On the eighteenth of April I received an express from Mr. Mulder, who had returned from the Cape, and brought answers to those letters he had conveyed for me in the beginning of February. Some of my friends, uneasy at my situation, intreated me to return ; others, on the contrary, urged me to perseverance, and safe by their own fire sides, thought slightly of all obstacles, provided my travels might tend to the improvement of human understanding ; or perhaps, without extending their views so far, would have been content if they only furnished food to satisfy their curiosity.

I determined, however, to continue the journey according to my original plan, though the bad weather had greatly retarded it, having only proceeded eight leagues, in the time Mr. Mulder had been to the Cape and back again. Among the rest I had a letter from him, in which he proposed meeting me for the purpose of a sea-fishing, provided it would not derange me too much. He informed me, he should bring nets and every convenience for a fortnight's residence on the shore; adding his wife would grace this little fête with her presence.

The news gave me pleasure; my friends were not long after their messenger, Mr. Mulder bringing the second commandant with him. The whole company was on horseback, it appeared like the travels of the Patriarchs; Mr. Mulder carrying a child of four months old before him, which his wife suckled; his waggons with the

nets and other necessaries were sent to the sea shore.

I caused one of mine to be prepared, and loaded with a tent and some empty casks, which I thought might be serviceable in our fishery. When arrived at a part of the coast which appeared favourable for our purpose, we cast our nets several times but with very indifferent success, taking scarce any thing; this determined us to go farther on to a small lake, which is formed by the spring tides, where we hoped we should meet with better sport. For my own part, I would much rather have been in quest of birds than fish, and it was more the friendship I felt for Mr. Mulder, with the cheerful gaiety of the ladies, than any pleasure I expected to find in fishing, that made me of the party; and notwithstanding all those attractions, I frequently rambled about in search of my favorite amusement.

We

We had but just arrived on the borders of the lake, and pitched on a convenient place for erecting our tents, when we were near having our whole plan of operations deranged; for in cutting a quantity of rushes which were very tall and thick, the workmen suddenly stumbled on a Buffalo, that was concealed among them; the animal was as much frightened as the men, and rushing hastily out, overturned the horses belonging to the second commandant and his wife; the alarm became general, every one making the best use of his legs. Mr. Mulder's domestics, who were unused to Buffalos, being near the water, rushed into it up to their chins; but my people, who were more accustomed to them, put a tolerable face on the matter.

The animal, confounded at the sight of such a company, not knowing which way to escape, stood scared and motionless in a nook of the rock; unhappily, I  
had



had only my double barrell'd gun with me, and it could not be supposed that a common ball stood much chance of killing a buffalo. I drew as near him as I dared, and fired one of my charges; at first he ran furiously towards me, but my second shot taking effect, intimidated him; when turning aside, he discharged all his fury on an unfortunate ox that carried part of our provisions, and striking the peaceful animal twice in the belly with his horns, rushed by, and we lost sight of him.

The company could not be persuaded to remain on this spot; the husbands were apprehensive on their wives account; and, if I did not judge amiss, were not intirely without fear on their own; we resolved, therefore, to return to our former situation.

Fortune



Fortune was now favourable, and we had the satisfaction to take such quantities of fish, that I ordered my men to salt and fill my barrels with them. Mr. Mulder followed my example. Our sport lasted eight days; employing and amusing us more than I had expected. During this time, as I hinted before, I made some little excursions, in which I shot several curious birds; but met with no more buffalos.

When our fish were salted we divided them, each taking his share. I could not, without regret, part with these honest colonists, who had made our fishery pleasing, by the ingenuous and frank simplicity of their manners. I followed, with my eyes, their little caravan; nor did I turn away, 'till I had lost sight of them.

When I got back to my camp, I found every thing in order, and the beasts in good condition, for which I did not fail to  
testify

testify my satisfaction. I had put into the hands of Mr. Mulder, for the purpose of being remitted to Mr. Boers, at the Cape, all the birds I had prepared since my last parcel; with these I sent a living Touraco, which I had caught in a snare. Mr. Mulder was likewise so obliging as to give me one of his nets, and send me a pair of wheels, which he knew I was in great want of.

My cart was very inconvenient, and in continual danger of overturning; I had determined, on the first opportunity, to have two wheels added to it; this was a matter of necessity, and we set about making the alteration on the spot, every one putting a hand to the work. The wood requisite for this business was presently cut out, and, in less than a fortnight, my cart was transformed into a four wheeled waggon. This had not, I must confess, a very workman-like appearance, but

but it answered my purpose tolerably well.

This interval was not intirely devoted to one object; when my cartwrights had got what materials they wanted, and I had reason to think the work would be finished to my satisfaction, I employed a part of my people in repairing the roads, and filling up the ravines, occasioned by the floods, between us and the torrent we had to cross; I made them cut down a great number of large branches from the trees, and collect a quantity of stones for that purpose; and, had I not taken this precaution, I should have endangered, if not disabled, the carriages.

On the 13th of April, my caravan being in readiness to pursue the journey, I cast a last look on the delightful hermitage of *Pampoen Kraal*, and quitted it with as much reluctance as a lover does his mistress

trefs. I have often since enquired after that charming asylum, and have heard, with satisfaction, that the Hottentots continue to respect, and have named it after me.

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## C H A P. XI.

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AN ACCIDENT HAPPENS TO ONE OF THE WAGGONS — THE AUTHOR IS TAKEN ILL — RECOVERS — PURSUES HIS JOURNEY — ACCOUNT OF THE BUFFALO — HINTS RESPECTING THE BAY OF AGOA.

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NOTWITHSTANDING all my precautions, we found great difficulty in passing Cayman's-hole, and likewise

likewise a river, which the Hottentots, in their language, call *Krakede-kau*, which signifies *Maid's-ford*.

This country was formerly inhabited by Hottentots, who have been either destroyed or dispersed into other parts; the large pits we often met with, announced them to have been huntsmen, who caught in these snares elephants, buffalos, &c. which are not now to be found in this quarter.

After eight hours march, we arrived at the *Stwart-rivier*, (Black-river) which was yet overflowed in consequence of the late rains; we were obliged to cross it upon rafts, constructed in the same manner as those we had before made use of.

Discovering some traces of buffalos feet on the other side; I resolved to stop there,  
and

and had the satisfaction to kill one myself, and the Hottentots who attended me another. We returned in haste to the camp, to inform them of our success, these being sufficient to supply us with provision for a considerable time, in case we did not happen to meet with fresh.

We encountered these two buffalos on the banks of a river that flowed from a hill above our settlement; by my orders they were pushed into the stream, which brought them down to my tent. I had these animals cut into small pieces, that they might the more readily imbibe the salt, and afterwards hung to dry in the air. The bushes, branches of trees, our waggons, in short, every thing that surrounded us was occupied with pieces of buffalo. In the height of our business we had some unexpected and unwelcome visitors, being assailed by a flight of kites, vultures, and other birds of prey, who  
came



came among us without any sign of fear; the kites, particularly, were so bold as to snatch the meat from my men, fly to the neighbouring trees, and devour it before our eyes. I fired at them several times, but this did not prevent the return of others; I therefore resolved to adopt other measures, and while our provision was drying, drive them away with long switches. This method was very fatiguing to my men, who, maugre all their care, were very much plundered; but had we omitted this precaution, not a single piece of our two buffalos would have remained.

I had the tongues smoaked, and was so well pleased with them, that whenever I met with any, I never failed to have them prepared in this manner; but I never fancied the tongues of the elephants, there was a something in the taste, and even

in the form, that occasioned a disgust I could neither overcome or account for.

Having well dried and packed our provisions, we abandoned Black-river. At two leagues distance we crossed the *Gaucom*, and after travelling the same space reached the *Nyſena*, which was very considerable, and augmented by the tide. I had never seen a more agreeable spot for my camp; it was a beautiful meadow, about a thousand feet square; a forest of large trees on the south formed a magnificent curtain that extended to the west; on the north was the river, which appeared to contain plenty of fish, while a variety of game sported on the borders; so many advantages might almost have made me forget Pampoen-Kraal, yet I was not tempted to stop.

On the opposite side of the river was a high mountain, this we must necessarily pass;

pass; but it appeared so steep and dangerous, that it gave me much inquietude, lest some accident should happen. These fears were very near being verified, by the loss of all the fruit of my labour and fatigue.

I had the precaution only to take one of my waggons up at a time; indeed, had I wished to have them go together I had not oxen enough to draw them.

I had twenty put to the master waggon, which contained, as I have before observed, all my artillery and acquisitions. The oxen began ascending the hill; they drew with their utmost strength; they strained every nerve, and had almost reached the summit, when the chain that held the first eighteen broke, and the waggon ran, or rather rolled back, with dreadful precipitation, dragging with it the remaining two that were fastened to the

shafts. From the height we had gained, myself and Hottentots beheld the disaster with anxious, and palpitating hearts. Twenty times was it on the brink of a precipice which was on one side of the road; and this misfortune must infallibly have happened, had it not been for the amazing strength of the remaining oxen. In this case I must have relinquished the journey, as my waggon, arms and most valuable effects would have been broke into a thousand pieces.

The waggon had almost gained the river, when it was fortunately stopped by the projection of a rock; a circumstance that caused us to hasten down with exclamations of joy.

After replacing every thing in the best order, we harnessed our cattle once more, and in about an hour regained, without  
any

any further danger, what we had lost in ten minutes.

The other not being so heavy, was got up without much difficulty; but I now took the precaution to double the traces, and place a man at each wheel, ready to lock them on the smallest appearance of danger; for though the road was so steep that this would not have prevented their descent (supposing we had met with a similar accident) it would greatly retard the rapidity, and give us time to direct and keep them from the precipice.

Fear magnifies every appearance of danger; I had dreaded the worst, and vainly endeavoured to tranquilize my countenance during the agitation of my mind. In that terrible moment I eagerly followed the track of the waggon, each jolt being a shock to my heart.



On recollection, I thought we got off very cheaply; indeed, it seemed almost a miracle that no material injury should be done to the waggon; and what was still more surprising, my two oxen, dragged backward by a carriage of between four and five thousand pounds weight, who might have been dashed to pieces before they could have reached the foot of the mountain, got clear for some trifling wounds that did not by any means disable them.

As I got farther from the colonies the country was still more beautiful; the soil rich and fruitful. Here nature appeared in all her majesty; the lofty mountains offering from every side the most delightful and romantic views I had ever seen: This prospect contrasted with the idea of the parched and barren sands about the Cape, made me think myself at a thousand miles distance.

“What!”



“ What !” exclaimed I, “ shall these  
“ charming fields, these hills and valleys,  
“ be for ever uninhabited, except by the  
“ lion and the tiger ! What a being is the  
“ sordid speculator, whose views, bounded  
“ by commerce, port-fees and customs,  
“ can prefer the storms and dangers of  
“ Table-bay, to the safe riding, or natural  
“ and charming ports, that are so common  
“ on the oriental coasts of Africa !”

It was thus I ruminated while walking up the mountain ; entertaining myself with the idea of this beautiful country’s being peopled, and forming schemes which the political laziness of the Europeans will never execute.

We continued our journey, having still to the west the great chain of mountains covered with forests ; and after four hours and a half’s march stopped at a little rivulet, about three leagues distant from the

sea. We observed that a prodigious quantity of fish came up with the tide ; when at its height I caused the stream to be barred with Mr. Mulder's large net, which I now used for the first time, doubling it, as it would otherwise have been too large.

I might be thought to exaggerate, was I to mention the number of fish we caught on the ebbing of the tide ; the quantity was so great as to damage the net considerably. My men dressed them according to their fancy, I reserved a hundred for my own use, which I put into a pot with some spices, without water, closing the top with clay, and covering it over with hot embers ; this arrangement procured me an excellent dish, which I eat of for several days.

It would be impossible to chuse a more commodious and agreeable situation, for  
settling

settling a prosperous colony, than this spot. The sea passing between two large rocks which are situated at about a thousand paces distance from each other, penetrates in-land for two leagues and a half, forming a spacious basin of a league in breadth; both sides are bordered with rocks, which cut off all communication with it, as far as they extend.

The soil is fertile, and intersected by numerous streams of fresh water from the western mountains, whose beautiful woods by various turnings and windings, extend even to the basin, and present the delighted eye with a hundred natural and charming groves.

On the borders I found several small white Herons, of the same species as those sent from Cayenne, and which I had seen in my youth at Surinam. I also saw the large white Egret, or Heron, but it is very scarce.

The woods abound with game, have plenty of Buffalos and some Elephants. At considerable distances from each other are scattered some miserable habitations, whose owners are reduced to subsist on a precarious commerce of wood and butter to the Cape.

I remained in this country 'till the thirteenth, we then crossed by dreadful roads a forest called *Le Poort*, from thence in seven hours we reached the *Witte Drest*; I saw in different places some plantations, like those I last mentioned. the distance, and many other almost insurmountable difficulties seldom permit them to take their cattle to the Cape, and when this is accomplished, they are generally in so poor a state, that they are obliged to sell them for half the usual value. On inquiry I found many of these Colonists had not been at the Cape for several years.

I still proceeded in my journey; but  
whether

whether the fatigues and difficulties I had lately encountered, or change of climate, had deranged my health, I was suddenly taken ill, and the gloomy idea seized me, that I should leave my ashes at two thousand leagues distance from my family.

Melancholy now painted my situation in all its horrors, and the deepest sadness preyed upon my spirits; I had a violent head-ach, with universal heaviness and pain, which made me apprehend the utmost danger; indeed ill health was the greatest misfortune I had dreaded in my enterprise. I was too much indisposed to pursue my journey, therefore resolved to continue where I was, convinced my illness would take the same turn here as in the midst of medical solemnity, and either terminate happily, or be concluded by death.

I visited the environs as well as my weak state of health would permit, and discovered



vered, in the neighbourhood of a little brook, a pleasing situation for our camp, my tent being placed on the skirts of a wood. Neither myself or people knew any thing of medicine, the only resource was diet and repose. My illness increased, and I was no longer able to quit the waggon, which the intense heat of the sun had converted into a kind of furnace. I was tormented with the most excruciating agonies in my bowels, the Hottentots were afflicted with similar complaints, which made me conclude we owed this disorder to the great quantity of salt fish we had eaten, and I immediately gave orders to burn all that remained.

A slow fever preyed upon me, but I had not entirely lost my strength, and after twelve days of violent perspiration began to recover, repose and diet seeming to produce the most salutary effects.



I now began to take a little moderate exercise, endeavoured to compose my spirits and found myself getting better every day, while the same means re-established the health of my Hottentots. I have ever since entertained the highest opinion of hot baths, and thought that which hazard (I might say necessity) administered was the means of saving my life.

My health being perfectly recovered, I resumed my favourite occupation of hunting. In the first excursion I made for this purpose, I found we were flanked by a second river, called *Queur-Boom*, which falls from the western mountains and joins *WitteDreft*, a league before it reaches the sea, into which these waters empty themselves by a mouth at the side of a Bay, known to Navigators by the name of the Bay of Agoa.

In a journey that Governor Blettenberg (of the Cape) undertook to this part of the country, he caused his name with the day and year of his arrival, to be engraven on a stone column. I examined this whimsical monument, which only wanted an inscription in verse to render it compleatly ridiculous ; the name, however, has spread throughout all the Colonies, and the Bay of Agoa is now only known by the appellation of *Blettenberg's Bay*. Thus it is that a paltry stone, raised by the vanity of an individual, may give birth to a number of errors, and disconcert established information !

In this neighbourhood there was a troop of about twenty-five or thirty Bubales, in a small space inclosed by the sea and two rivers, whose only entrance was occupied by the camp and waggons. The animals were entirely at our discretion, not being able to escape ; indeed we looked on these

as a part of our property, and when provisions grew short, did not fail to make use of them, I believe none escaped; their skins were joined together and formed an excellent tilt for our new waggon.

Considerable herds of Buffalos came and grazed within view on the other side of *Queur-Boom*, we sometimes hunted them and never failed of success. This animal is very shy, and in the woods should be attacked cautiously; but if in the open country, he is by no means formidable, being extremely timorous, and flying the presence of man. The best way to subdue him is to hunt him with some good dogs, and while the Buffalo is busily defending himself from their attack, a shot in the head, or near the shoulder-bone will usually stretch him dead upon the spot. The bullets used on this occasion should be cast in a larger mould than common, of a composition of lead and pewter. Unless the  
ball

ball ledges in one of the parts I have mentioned the wound is not mortal.

The horns of this animal are very large and divergent, being so near at the base, that they might be supposed to spring from the same root, and the points turning again towards each other, they seem to form a kind of chaplet.

The Buffalo is considerably larger and stronger than the finest European Ox, and I should suppose it is by no means impracticable, to make it submit to the yoke. It may be objected, that every attempt at this has hereto failed; but I think the argument by no means conclusive. The enterprise requires time, address and information, therefore cannot be expected to succeed from the indolent attempt of an ignorant Colonist, who is apt to think every trifling difficulty insurmountable. The scheme is certainly worthy the speculation

culation of a company that wishes to extend and facilitate every branch of industry and commerce.

Let a number of these animals be procured while young, let them be secured in an inclosure, and accustomed to receive from their keeper the food they are most fond of, and I am persuaded they will soon be familiarized to the hand that feeds them: These animals will in time have young, who by the example of the old ones and the same mode of treatment, may be rendered still more sociable; and I see no reason to doubt but the third generation at farthest, would be tractable; while we, every day in Paris, see wolves taken from the uninhabited mountains of Savoy, walking about our streets, dancing, jumping and playing a hundred tricks, with all the submission that the caprice or interest of their conductors require.



In general the horned animals, who part the hoof, have a wildness in the eyes which makes them appear terrible, but it is not (as with carnivorous beasts) a sign of fierceness, on the contrary, it is an indication of fear ; they have neither the craft or savageness of the Lion, Tiger, or even the Elephant, nor are the vegetables on which they feed so conducive to a malignant disposition.

It does not enter into my present plan to investigate the immense and complicate distinctions which mark the different species of savage animals ; as these definitions have no relation with recitals which are purely historical, I shall leave them to my description of Quadrupeds ; but I wished to observe that it is ever a motive of defence, or necessity of food that leads them to ferocity ; governed by various combinations of the passions, they take different means to gratify them.



I had not yet taken a view of the Bay, improperly called Blettenberg, indeed my illness had prevented it. On examination I was surprised to find it only an open road, which indents very little inland ; it is spacious, and the largest ships may find good anchorage ; shallops can easily gain a fine flat shore, which though not destitute of rocks, is not much incommoded by them, as they are at considerable distances from each other. About a league from the mouth of Queur-Boom the crews may take in plenty of fresh water, and procure refreshments from the inhabitants ; the bay likewise abounds with fish, and the rocks are covered with excellent oysters.

This is one of the places where Government should establish a repository for timber, which is excellent in the environs, and much easier to obtain than in any other part I had seen. It does not grow like that in the country of *Auteniquas*, for instance,

on the tops of high and steep mountains, but at hand, on the level plain, and were magazines constructed on the shore, one or two vessels might transport it to the Cape, in fine weather, in a short time; this would open the eyes of the inhabitants to the peculiar advantages of their situation, and the transportation of timber being considerably augmented, the cultivation of lands, cleared from these inexhaustible forests, would offer a flattering prospect of emolument to some intelligent colonists, who on account of the easy communication with the Cape, would have it in their power to obtain a number of indulgences they are forced to renounce, while it is necessary to take a journey of a hundred and fifty leagues by land to procure them. We should not then hear these good Hollanders openly and ardently wishing that some nation would settle in their neighbourhood, and furnish them with the conveniences of life and charms of society,  
by

by extending the benefits of commerce to the Bay of Agoa; nor would these wishes, so contrary to their political consequence, run any hazard of being fulfilled.

It only remains for the company to form an establishment, which to public utility would add the profit of individuals; for example, felling the trees called *Bois-Puant*, (stinking wood) and transporting them to Europe, where they would certainly be accounted some of the finest for cabinet-work, would furnish an amazing profit.

The advantages the company and colonies might draw from this fine country, could never have escaped the observation of the Governor, who once visited it; but the truth is, public good is usually subordinate to the private advantages of some needy adventurers, who are interested to suppress every thing that tends to the diminution of their profits. What is a Go-

vernor ? An unfeeling being, blind to the general good, who is not stimulated, nor has any energy but for his own private advantage ; who consents to exile himself from his native country for a time, and the first article of whose political creed is, that being rapidly to acquire a large fortune, every means tending to the accomplishment of his views, are good and lawful ! Full of these ideas he departs for his government, arrives, realizes his designs, and returns to his country, to insult his fellow citizens, by an insolent display of that pride and riches, which must one day open the eyes of his superiors to means of redress, that could not fail to operate to the advantage and prosperity of a numerous colony. He is replaced by a successor, who enriches himself in his turn, and the farce is thus played a hundred times over.

I believe most Colonies that are the property of private companies, to be in the  
same

same predicament, with those public vehicles which convey merchandise and passengers from one place to another, where, provided the property does but get safe to the place of destination, we are not much concerned whether the wheels crack under the weight.

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## CHAP. XII.

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KILLS A BALBUZARD — TAKES A GAZELL —  
PURSUES SOME ELEPHANTS — KILLS ONE — HIS  
LIFE ENDANGERED — REMARKABLE INSTANCE  
OF ATTACHMENT.

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THE environs of this bay furnished me with an opportunity of adding several fine birds to my collection but



above all I wished to procure one that had often put my patience to the proof, and in the sequel had like to have cost me dear; it was a beautiful kind of Balbuzard, which is a species of the eagle, and near as large as the osprey. I saw it every day about my camp, but never within reach of my gun; and I was always watching, or causing it to be watched.

One day that I had crossed *Queur-Boom*, and was walking along its opposite bank, I saw at the foot of an old withered tree, a number of fishes heads, with a quantity of bones and other remains of young gazells. I immediately concluded it was the common resort of the Balbuzard I had so often seen, and was confirmed in my conjectures when I saw two rising in the air to a prodigious height. I instantly concealed myself in a thick bush, but this was not sufficient to shield me from the piercing eyes of the eagles,



eagles, who, instead of descending, intirely disappeared.

The next morning I replaced myself in the thicket, which I never quitted till the evening, and then without having seen them return. Though this place was at no great distance from our camp, my jaunts were very troublesome; because in going and returning I had to cross *Queur-Boom*, and was frequently obliged to wait the ebbing of the tide.

Wearied with this loss of time; I ordered two of my Hottentots to follow me. We crossed the river, and got within gunshot of the above-mentioned tree; here I made them dig a hole three feet square and four deep; into this pit I descended, causing a kind of hurdle made of crossed sticks, covered with a piece of mat, and then with earth, to be laid over the opening; in this there was a small aperture to look out at, or through which,

which, if occasion required, I could fire my piece. I then ordered my people to return to the camp. Day broke soon after, but the provoking birds did not appear, the earth being newly turned up, made them distrustful ; indeed I had foreseen this difficulty, however I resolved to persevere in the plan I had adopted. In the evening I returned home, passed some hours at the camp, after which I crossed the river, and caused myself to be covered up as before. I passed the second day with no better success than the former ; in this interval the sun had dried the earth which had been thrown up in making my hiding place. About twelve o'clock on the third day, I saw the female hovering over the tree, with a large fish in its beak ; soon after it perched on one of the branches. I discharged my piece, which happily took effect, and she instantly fell, violently beating her wings. In a moment she renewed her flight, passed the river ;

river; but dropped as soon as she had reached the opposite shore.

The joy I felt at seeing her lay motionless on the ground, made me regardless of the height of the tide; with my gun on my shoulder, I rushed into the river, nor was I sensible of my folly 'till I found myself in the middle, and up to my chin in water.

I was alone, and totally unacquainted with swimming; had I returned, the rapidity of the current would infallibly have overset me, I therefore pursued my way, and had the good fortune to gain the other side. I caught up the Balbuzard, and the pleasure I found in contemplating it, made me forget the danger I had just encountered.

I hastened homeward; on my arrival I was informed that some of my people  
were

were in pursuit of a buffalo, which they had seen by chance the evening before ; they soon after returned, loaded with the quarters of the animal, having cut him up on the spot. Early the next morning I sent to collect all the offal that remained, purposing to lay it in a convenient place to attract the birds of prey ; this method soon procured me a male Balbuzard, which does not differ from the female, except in being one-third smaller ; a general case among all carnivorous birds.

One morning that I was seated at the opening of my tent, busily dissecting the Balbuzard I had killed the preceding day, on a sudden a gazell, of the kind called *Bos Bock*, crossed my camp, running with amazing swiftness between the waggons ; my dogs who had seen it enter, had not time to prevent her escape ; and though a net that was hung to dry on the tent interrupted her passage, she disengaged herself

herself by instantly tearing away a part of it. My whole pack now began the pursuit; but with amazing celerity she gained the river side, and plunged into the stream.

There are a number of wild dogs in the neighbourhood of this place, nine of them (who had probably been in pursuit of her) appeared at this moment; but at sight of us they stopped short, and making a turn, gained a little hill beyond our camp, from whence they could perceive the pursuit of their prey, which my dogs had followed into the water, and were now dragging alive to shore, in which state my Hottentots soon after brought her to the tent. It was laughable to see the silly disappointed look of these animals, who from fear never quitted the hill, and were only spectators of this scene. I would fain have caught one, and for that purpose sent some of my people to endeavour to bar their passage;



passage ; but they were too cunning for us, escaping with the utmost speed, and a ball I sent after them was but thrown away.

I wished to tame this gazell, but she was so very timorous, struggling and beating herself so violently at the sight of my dogs, that I thought it more merciful to kill and eat her.

For eight days this adventure served for matter of conversation and merriment among my facetious Hottentots, who were highly delighted at having snatched this prize from the mouths, as it were, of the before-mentioned hungry animals. If my dogs had not been seconded by the Hottentots, I make no doubt but the others would have carried off the gazell ; for though my pack was more numerous, the wild ones were stronger and more courageous.—But I may have occasion to  
speak



ſpeak of them hereafter; when I ſhall contradict ſome errors which have been advanced reſpecting them, ſeemingly, with good authority. But how can matters be related with any degree of certainty, when the relator has never been witneſs to what he deſcribes, but is reduced to the neceſſity of copying after thoſe who knew as little of the matter as himſelf.

Until the 25th of June we frequently removed our camp to different parts adjoining the bay; I then reſolved to continue my journey between the chain of mountains and the ſea. I went to reconnoitre the paſſes, and determine which way we ſhould proceed; but I found, to my in-expreſſible vexation, that there was no poſſibility of my waggonſ croſſing the foreſt, which is of an amazing extent and thickneſs. My Hottentots, who had likewiſe been employed in the ſame manner, were not more fortunate; in a word,

no path was to be discovered. I now determined to cross the chain of mountains in search of a road for the oxen, but my labour was still in vain; whatever side I turned to, pointed rocks intersected my way, and offered insuperable obstacles to our passage. I now found we had got in a situation, so beset on every side with impassible mountains, forests, &c. that there was no way of quitting it but by the path we had entered; we were obliged, therefore, to return to the wood *Du Poort*, which we had left a month before.

Such is the happy pliability of the human mind, that the veriest trifles frequently calm our ruffled spirits, and wipe off the remembrance of our misfortunes. This place, to which I regretted being forced to return, suddenly gave me the greatest satisfaction.

As I was walking along, I saw the print of an elephant's foot, so fresh that I was certain it could not be more than a day since it passed that spot; this circumstance immediately dissipated my regret, and consoled me for the delay of my journey. I gave orders, without loss of time, for my men to erect the tent.

Among my Hottentots there was one, who, in his youth, had visited this place with the Hoord to which he belonged; and though a long interval had elapsed, he yet retained some knowledge of the surrounding country. I selected him, therefore, with four of my best marksmen, for my elephant hunters, and ordering affairs at the camp, we took a small stock of provisions, and followed the track of the animal. Night coming on, we supped gaily, inviting each other by our cheerfulness, not to regret the comforts of the camp; and after making a large

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fire, laid ourselves down to sleep upon the earth.

Though we had mutually endeavoured to inspire each other with confidence, a sentiment of uneasiness and terror pervaded the whole party, and the least wind, or rustling of the leaves, was sufficient to rouse and put us on our guard. The whole night passed away in these little agitations; and at day break I hastened up my companions, who were soon ready, a glass of brandy each making them forget their uneasy night and early rising, they followed me with the most pleasing alacrity.

The second day was not more fortunate; we pursued the same method as in the former, with this difference, that being a little emboldened by not having encountered any danger, we hoped to lose and forget our fatigues in sleep, which would enable

us to pursue our chace with redoubled ardor.

We had hardly been asleep an hour, when we were suddenly alarmed by a buffalo, who, attracted by the light, had drawn very near us. This animal, who is much terrified at the sight of the human species, no sooner perceived us, than he hastened away, and the noise he made in rushing through the bushes, had waked us ; I immediately ran to my gun, but was too late, for the animal had sufficient time to escape. We sought after him for more than an hour, and fired several shot at random ; but having no prospect of success, we again laid ourselves down by the fire, and endeavoured to sleep.

The adventures of the third day became more interesting ; I shall be particular in my recital of them ; they even now, frequently return upon my mind ; and though the



impetuosity of youth has given way to less animated projects and more tranquil ideas, the remembrance of this day, while it makes me tremble, gives to my mind a degree of animation.

We had not yet lost the traces of the animal we were in search of; after some hours fatigue and painful walking among the thorns and briars, we arrived at a very open part of the forest, in which was a clump of shrubs and under-wood. Here we stopped, while one of my Hottentots climbed a tree. After he had looked about for some time, he made a sign for us to be silent, by putting his finger on his mouth, and then, by opening and closing his hand several times (a signal we had before agreed upon) gave us to understand how many elephants he had discovered.

When

When he had descended, we consulted what means to pursue ; the result of our deliberations was, that the person who had discovered them, should lead us thro' the bushes as near as possible to the spot where they stood. Though he led me very near one of these enormous beasts, I did not at first perceive him ; not that fear had facinated my sight, but I could not believe that the prodigious immovable mass beneath me was the animal I had so much wished to encounter. It should be observed, I was on a little hillock, which raised me above the back of the elephant, I still kept looking further on, and should rather have taken, what was so near me, for a piece of rock than a living creature. All this time my honest Hottentots kept crying, *see there !—there he is !* with a tone of the utmost impatience. At length a slight motion caught my eye, and immediately after the head and tusks, which the enormous body had in a manner concealed,

R 3

cealed, were turned towards me ; without losing time or advantage in contemplation, I instantly fired my carbine, and the ball taking place in the middle of his forehead, he staggered and fell. This noise frightened the rest, and they immediately began running from the spot as fast as possible ; they were about thirty in number, and it was really amusing to see their huge ears flapping in proportion to the quickness of their motions. This was but the prelude to a more animated scence.

I was examining the animal I had killed, when another passed just by us, which received a shot from one of my people ; by the blood that followed the stroke, I judged he was dangerously wounded, and pursued him immediately. He would have lain down, but was prevented by our repeated firing. We followed him into a thicket, in which was a number of decayed trees, that had fallen through age.

On

On our fourteenth fire the animal became outrageous, making furiously after the Hottentot that last wounded him; another of my men discharged his piece, crying out, at the same time, "Take care of yourselves!" an injunction that every one immediately obeyed.

I was only at about twenty-five paces distance from the animal, with a gun of thirty pounds weight, besides ammunition, and not so conveniently situated for escape as my people, who had not advanced so far; I ran, but the elephant gained ground every moment. More dead than alive through fear; abandoned by the Hottentots (one of them only attempting to assist me) the only chance I had was to fall down by the trunk of a great tree that lay on the ground; this I had scarcely time to accomplish before the animal ran over it, but frightened himself at the noise made by my people, he instantly stopped to listen.

I could readily have fired from my hiding place, for fortunately my piece was charged; but he had already received so many wounds, that despairing to disable him by a single discharge, I remained immoveable, every moment expecting death. I continued, however, to watch him, resolving, if he discovered me, to sell my life as dear as possible.

The Hottentots trembling for my safety called out from all parts, but I took care not to answer; persuaded by my silence that I was already crushed to pieces, their cries redoubled.

The Elephant affrighted at this sudden clamour, turned hastily about, stepping a second time over the trunk of the tree, within six paces of where I lay, without perceiving me. Wishing to convince my Hottentots that I was living, and impatient at remaining in this perilous situation,  
I



I got on my feet, when sending another ball after him, he continued his way and entirely disappeared.

This picture is not yet compleat, gratitude and friendship must close the recital. Generous, worthy man! the hour is arrived in which I have so often promised to raise this artless monument to the commemoration of thy virtues; but thou canst never know the estimation I set on it! Never can my euology pervade the peaceful bosom of thy desert; yet thou art not ignorant of my gratitude, the warmth of which I have sometimes endeavoured to express. Long wilt thou remember me, long shall I be spoken of among thy Hoord, and happier shall I be in that idea, than in all the useless trophies that could be bestowed on me by the vanity of a polished people! Generous! *Klaas* pupil of nature! artless soul, undefaced, uncorrupted by the false tinsel of superficial politeness, continue to cherish

cherish the remembrance of that friend, to whom thy idea must ever be dear!

When in the above mentioned perilous situation, at the mercy of a furious animal, who once discovering, would have ended me in an instant; while my heart palpitated with apprehension, I was yet susceptible of a sentiment of veneration, inspired by one of those worthy men, whom polished nations have agreed to speak of with disdain, as the very out-casts of nature; in short, by an African savage! a Hottentot!

In quitting the Cape, *Klaas* had been recommended to me, by Mr. Boers, as a man whose courage and fidelity might be depended on; he ordered him never to abandon me, promising a recompense if I returned safe to the Cape, and gave a satisfactory account of his conduct; he faithfully obeyed these orders, never quitting me in the hour of danger, and in this instance

stance finding I had disappeared in an instant, he fought me in vain; I could hear him call me with the utmost emotion, and address his comrades who followed at some distance, in terms of reproach for their cowardice. "What will you do," said he, in his own expressive language, "where can you go, should we have the misfortune to find our unfortunate master crushed to pieces by the feet of the Elephant? Dare you return to the Cape without him? Have you the courage to face the Fiscal? Whatever excuse you may make, you will certainly pass for his assassins. But return to the camp, pillage his effects, do what you please; for me, I am resolved to find my master, and if dead, to perish with him." He accompanied this discourse with such lively expressions of sorrow, that in the most critical moment my heart was sensible of his attachment.

The

The report of my piece was an universal signal of joy; in a moment I was surrounded by my people. The affectionate *Klaas* knew no set terms in which to express his satisfaction, but he pressed me eagerly in his arms.

His comrades overcome with shame and regret, with supplicating faces seemed to ask forgiveness. In few words I endeavoured to console them, enjoying this whole scene too much to interrupt the contemplation of it by idle speeches or useless reproach.

From this time I experienced the satisfaction of being beloved without any mixture of interest. *Klaas* was now my equal, my brother, the confidant of my hopes and fears; more than once has he calmed my agitated mind, and re-animated my drooping courage; if in the sequel he may shew some marks of weakness, inconsistent with  
the

the good order I had established in my camp, the proofs of his attachment had too much weight to permit the exertion of severity, or offering any impediments to the interests of his heart.

I did not forget to draw a faithful resemblance of this worthy Hottentot, from which the annexed plate was engraved.

CHAP.



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## C H A P. XIII.

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THE AUTHOR RETURNS TO THE CAMP — ATTACKS FOUR ELEPHANTS—RECEIVES A MESSENGER FROM MR. BOERS—WRITES TO HIS FRIENDS.

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NIGHT drawing on, we hastened to find the Elephant, which I had the good fortune to kill with a single shot; our presence drove away several Vultures and small carnivorous animals, who had lost no time, having already begun to dissect it.

The

The Hottentots quickly kindled several fires, provisions had began to run short, consequently this supply was very welcome to us ; they cut several slices off the animal to broil for themselves, dressing a part of the trunk for me.

It was the first time I had tasted this kind of food, but I determined it should not be the last, as I thought it delicious. Klaas assured me the feet were still better, and promised to convince me of this by preparing a part of them for my next morning's breakfast, which operation he immediately set about.

Having cut off the Elephant's feet, they dug a hole in the earth, of three or four feet square, which was filled up with burning wood, covered over with dried branches, so as to keep a very brisk fire good part of the night. When they thought this pit sufficiently heated, the fire was  
taken

taken out, and the four feet being placed in it, were covered over with warm ashes, then with lighted embers and some small dry sticks, which continued burning 'till morning.

This night I was the only one that slept, my men keeping watch by order of Klaas. I was informed next morning that they had heard a number of Elephants and Buffalos all night in the environs; this indeed we had expected, knowing the forest was full of them, but the number of our fires had prevented their giving us any disturbance.

My people presented me with one of the before mentioned feet for breakfast; dressing had prodigiously swelled it, but it exhaled such a savory odour, that I soon tasted and found it to be delicious. I had often heard the feet of Bears commended, but could not conceive that so gross and  
heavy

heavy an animal as the Elephant, would afford such delicate food. “Never,” said I, “can our modern epicures have such a dainty at their tables ; let forced fruits and the contributions of various countries contribute to their luxury, yet cannot they procure so excellent a dish as I have now before me.”

The rest of the morning was employed in taking off the tusks, which did not weigh above twenty pounds, the animal being a female, and only eight feet three inches high. My men loaded themselves with as much provision as they could carry, and we returned towards the camp.

I had designed to follow the track of the beast we had wounded, but so many others had trampled about during the night, that it was impossible to discover the traces of it, and being all much fatigued, I

feared to dishearten my men, therefore determined to return as quick as possible.

How subtil a sense is sight in a Hot-tentot ! which is seconded by a scrutinizing attention, almost miraculous ! On a dry soil, where the Elephant, notwithstanding his weight, scarce leaves the smallest track ; among a number of withered leaves, scattered by the wind, the African will trace his steps ; a green leaf doubled or detached, the manner in which a small branch is broken off, with a thousand other circumstances equally minute, are to them certain informations, where all the resources of the most expert European hunter would be ineffectual. It was only by time and experience that I could form any idea of a kind of divination, so necessary in this noble species of hunting, which was so pleasing to me, that I was fond of the most trifling acquisition. While rambling in the woods with my people, the whole day



day was spent in questions and information, example being usually joined to precept.

On our return to the camp, Swanepoel informed me that every night during our absence he had been disturbed by a number of Elephants, which approached so near, that they could hear them break the branches of trees, and eat the leaves. I took a turn in the forest, where several young trees were broken, the branches torn, and the young shoots devoured.

This was sufficient information for me, my men had recovered their fatigue, and I thought it more advisable to encounter these animals during the day, than wait their approach by night. We sat out immediately, but had no occasion to go far from our camp, for having ascended a little hill, on the skirts of the wood, I perceived four in a neighbouring thicket. I

descended with great precaution, advancing near enough to have a full view of them for half an hour. I observed they were eating the extremities of branches, which before they broke away, they struck three or four times with their trunks, as I imagined, to shake off the insects; after this preliminary, they made a bunch of as many as the trunk would surround, bearing them to the mouth in a direction from left to right, and without much mastication swallowed them. I observed they gave the preference to those branches most covered with leaves, and seemed particularly fond of a tree, whose fruit, when ripe, is yellow, called the *Cerifier* (cherry-tree) in this country.

When I had sufficiently examined them I fired at the head of that nearest me, my shot, taking effect, it fell, and in less than ten minutes I was equally successful with the other three. When a troop of Elephants

phants is encountered, if you kill the first you aim at, success is almost sure with the rest; but I shall speak of this singularity hereafter.

We imagined there were more near, but a great noise on one side of us caught our attention, and turning about, one of my Hottentots perceived a young Elephant and shot it. I was very much displeased with him for this, the animal not being bigger than a calf of five or six months old, might easily have been caught and tamed.

Among the four I had shot, was one young male, about seven feet high, his tusks did not weigh more than fifteen pounds each; the highest of the three females was eight feet five inches, the tusks not exceeding the same weight.

A singularity that astonished both myself and people, who assured me they had

never seen an example of the kind before, and which the sedentary naturalists will no doubt dispute, was, that the Elephant we judged to be the mother of the young male, had but one teat, which was placed in the middle of her breast; this was full of milk, I drew some of it into my hand, it was sweet, but of a disagreeable flavor, and flowed from eight small punctures; the others had two as usual.

The young male which my indiscreet Hottentot had killed, had not yet any tusks, on examination I perceived two small white spots where they would have been, about the size of deer shot. The flesh of this was extremely delicate.

I hoped to have found a fœtus in one of these creatures, but was disappointed; their stomachs were filled with a very transparent liquid, which my people drank of; I tasted it myself, but it occasioned  
such

such a disagreeable nausea, that I immediately ran to drink at a spring, about a quarter of a league off.

I had left my men busy in cutting up the Elephants, on my return I thought it very extraordinary, not to find any of them; I could not conceive why they had left their work, and began calling as loud as possible, but was still more astonished at seeing them come out of the Elephants, being employed in securing some interior parts of the creatures, which next to the trunk and feet, are accounted the greatest delicacies.

I had sent one of the Hottentots to my camp, to tell Swanepoel to send me some harnessed oxen and a chain; we had cut off the heads of the Elephants before they arrived, we now fastened them to the chain, but found great difficulty in getting the oxen near enough to draw them; at



length we accomplished our purpose, and with much labour got them to the camp,

Returning to the thicket, where I had left part of my men, I found it impossible to make my horse pass along, the way being tinged with the blood that flowed from the heads; I was obliged therefore to take him another way, but no sooner did he approach the Elephants, than he started, kicked, and in the end threw me, after which, running a considerable way round, he regained the Camp.

I must now speak of one of those interesting moments, when every impulse of pleasure and transport animates the soul; situations, which the susceptible heart so exquisitely feels, but is so utterly unable to express.

Obliged to return to the Camp on foot,

I perceived a stranger on horseback; it was a Hottentot. Observing that he designed to come up with me, I stopped for him. This proved to be an express from Mr. Boers, who had received orders to enquire after me in all the colonies I had passed through, then, following my track, he was to seek me in the desert. This man had exactly fulfilled his commission, having traced the marks of my waggon wheels, which had led him to my different encampments, and at length to myself.

Before I quitted the Cape, Mr. Boers had promised, that if, during my absence, any letters arrived from Europe, he would remit them to me, if possible; this respectable friend had kept his word; in the packet that was now delivered, I found several from France, which were the first I had received since my departure.

I can-

I cannot describe my impatience on taking this packet from the hands of the messenger; uncertain whether the news was good or ill, I had hardly power to break the seals; it may be easily imagined I did not wait for this 'till I returned to the camp; these letters were from my dearest friend—my wife!—Impatience prevented my reading—my eyes glanced hastily over them—all were well—were happy!—I was beloved, regretted—friendship reached me though in a desert; overcharging my heart with tender remembrances.—I could neither speak nor sigh; pleasure possessed all my faculties, and deprived me of utterance.

These first transports over, I returned to the camp, where shutting myself up, I gave a free passage to my tears. Having composed my spirits, I immediately prepared to answer these letters, dating mine  
from

from *The Camp in Auteniquas, on the day when I killed four Elephants.*

One of these letters, which I addressed to a learned person, and which contained several interesting details, was some years ago, handed about Paris, where it was ridiculously criticised. It contained a number of discoveries, which contradicted the prevailing opinion of that time; these I shall take notice of in my discription of animals.

In the evening, the camp put in order, our fires made, myself seated as usual, the letters I had been writing on the table, and the Hottentots surrounding me, "Friends," said I, "this person, your countryman, has been sent by Mr. Boers, to enquire after my welfare, and to know if your conduct answers his wishes; in this," taking up the first letter that came to hand, "I have inform-  
" ed

“ ed him, you have hitherto behaved as  
“ brave and honest men ; that during the  
“ eight months we have travelled toge-  
“ ther, I have regarded you as the faithful  
“ companions of my labour ; and I have  
“ entreated him to be under no apprehen-  
“ sions on your account, as I rely on your  
“ fidelity with the utmost chearfulness ;  
“ on his return to the Cape, he may in-  
“ form your friends and relations, that you  
“ are content and happy.”

The proofs of attachment I had received from my friends, their repeated assurances of remembrance and affection, gave me such extreme pleasure, that for the moment I forgot Africa, my collection, birds and hunting, every other consideration being absorbed in the idea of the tenderness, and memory of my friends.

I had this night been rather too generous in the distribution of my tobacco,  
having



having given them enough to occasion intoxication; this, however, I was now contriving means to prevent; their third pipe drew near the conclusion; after having drank my tea, I ordered a box to be brought and placed before me, which opening, with all the art and mystery of a quack, I drew out that noble and melodious instrument called a jew's-harp! and beginning to play a lively tune, the pipes of the Hottentots were instantly laid aside, and every one employed in gazing at me, with mouths half open, arms extended, and fingers stretched asunder; they might, altogether, have furnished an excellent idea to a painter who wished to express a group of figures struck by the power enchantment. Their astonishment was more than equalled by the pleasure they felt; every one, with his head aside, presenting an attentive ear, that did not lose a single sound of my instrument. I was much diverted; but took the utmost care not to laugh,

laugh, as that would have spoiled the jest, and lessened the value of my music.

When I ceased playing, I gave the harp to the nearest Hottentot, but had some difficulty in teaching him how to use it, which having accomplished, I sent him to his place; and not wishing to make any difference among them, gave one to each. Some played tolerably, some ill, some horribly; in truth, it was a discord that might have scared a set of furies; even my oxen, frightened at such an unusual noise, bellowed hediously; and in every part of our camp there was a mixture of sounds that exceeded description.

The air of amazement that struck my people on playing this ridiculous instrument, convinced me, that very simple means will astonish untutored minds; and that, probably, the skill of Orpheus, and  
harmony

harmony of his lyre, owe all their excellence to the imagination of the poets.

Though they were all in the greatest good humour, I was afraid this mirth might occasion serious consequences; for my oxen, who had not yet forgot the elephants, if too much frightened, might wander from our camp; by a motion of my hand I made them understand I had something to say; in an instant every one was silent.

“ My good friends,” said I, “ I have regaled you with some of the best tobacco you ever tasted, and given every one an excellent musical instrument; now let us terminate our feast by drinking a bumper of brandy each, to the health of our absent friends.”

This was a night of revels; *Kees* was seated by my side, a place he never failed to

to avail himself of in the evening ; indeed, I had spoiled him, never eating or drinking any thing but he came in for his share ; and if I seemed inclined to forget him, he ever took care to remind me, either by munching, or giving me a touch with his paw. He was equally fond of milk and brandy, the latter I ever gave him on a plate, as I had remarked, that in drinking out of a glass, his greediness and precipitation made him draw as much up his nostrils as he took in at his mouth, which occasioned him to cough and sneeze for hours.

Kees, as I have already said, was seated by my side, the plate before him, ready for his share, while his eyes impatiently followed the brandy bottle, which the Hottentots served, with what impatience did he wait his turn ! Alas ! the unfortunate rogue, that licked his lips in advance, did not know he was going to taste that bewitching liquor for the last time ; not that

I lost

I lost my friend Kees, though in future I saved his portion of brandy.

I had packed up my dispatches, and was putting on the last cover at the moment the bottle had finished its round, and reached my monkey. I determined for once to cheat him; but without any other intent than to amuse myself with his surprize. The liquor had been just poured into the plate, and he was preparing to seize it, when I added, unseen, a piece of lighted paper; the brandy blazed immediately; Kees screamed and chattered, running away as fast as possible; it was in vain I called and endeavoured to coax him, for being too angry to be easily pacified, he left us and went to his bed. The night was far advanced; and after receiving the thanks of my people, we all retired to rest.



I must observe, that fear had so intirely possessed poor Kees, that it was in vain I afterwards endeavoured to make him forget what had happened, by offering him his former favourite liquor, which I could never after prevail on him to taste. Sometimes my men would teaze him, by showing him the brandy bottle, which was ever enough to make him chatter and grind his teeth.

The next day, after having recompensed the Messenger of Mr. Boers, I gave him my dispatches, and he sat out for the Cape.

CHAP.

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### C H A P. XIII.

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THE AUTHOR CONTINUES HIS JOURNEY —  
CROSSES A DANGEROUS MOUNTAIN — MEETS  
WITH A HOORD OF HOTTENTOTS:

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**I**N the morning I dissected the head of one of the elephants, leaving in the grinders and tusks; during this employment my people returned loaded with the best parts of the animals, which they cut into long thin slices, that it might dry the more speedily when exposed to the sun and wind. . Some were employed in break-

ing the bones, and boiling them for the greafe, which they then put into bladders, and other intestines. The Hottentot is never negligent in this particular, for besides the consumption on his own person, he uses much in cookery, and indeed we were never overburthened with this article, the greasing of our wheels and traces wasting a large quantity; for without this precaution the leather would soon have been cracked and broken by the heat of the sun. I likewise burned it continually during the night; in default of cotton tearing wicks from my cravats.

This business took up some time, and was scarcely finished when one of my men informed us he had seen the print of an elephant's foot at about an hundred paces from the tent; I ran to see it, and judged the animal to be monstrous, from the largeness of the impression, which was so fresh, it could not be far off. On  
searching

searching the forest, we soon came near enough for me to shoot him in a vital part, but was surprised he did not fall; I now concluded, that either my gun was not sufficiently loaded, or that the beast was impenetrable. As soon as he felt himself struck, he rushed furiously towards us; but we effectually secured ourselves from his rage, by hastily retiring behind some bushes. After striking the ground for some time, he turned away, and tho' he had lost much blood, went off at so quick a rate, that it would have been impossible to have overtaken him.

I was very much vexed at this escape, it being by much the finest I had ever seen, measuring at least twelve or thirteen feet; and by what we could judge, his tusks might weigh a hundred and twenty pounds each.

Our meat being well dried and packed, we set out on our return to Cayman's-hole, which I had passed on the 13th of April, two months before. The Hottentots I had sent to reconnoitre brought me word, that we might pass the chain of mountains, at a part called *Tete de Diable*, or Devil's Head: We took that road, passing my favorite settlement of *Pampoen Kraal*, of which I took a last farewell.

Having arrived at the foot of the mountain, I ordered the head of the elephant I had dissected, to be put in one of the waggons, and likewise the birds and insects that I had prepared; then leaving my camp once more to the care of part of my faithful attendants, with my waggon, took the road to Mr. Mulder's; for having returned a considerable way, I was no great distance from his dwelling. He was kind enough to promise that he would remit this collection to Mr. Boers. I now once  
more



more took leave of Mr. Mulder and his respectable family, and rejoined my people.

Early the next morning we climbed the mountain with great trouble and fatigue ; but this was nothing compared to the descent on the other side, which appeared so very difficult, as to alarm and frighten every individual of our company, who stood looking at each other without uttering a word ; in fine, we were as men suddenly caught in a trap. To stay on the peak was impossible ; we must either descend on one side or the other—thus if we escaped Scylla we fell into Charibdis.

But fortitude and precaution prevail over every obstacle ; I recollected that this enterprise was not more difficult for my caravan, than the passage of the Alps had been to innumerable armies ; I therefore began to prepare for the dangerous de-

scant, by harnessing only two of my oxen to each waggon, letting only one go down at a time. The first advanced in good order, escorted by all my people; it was necessary to pass over a number of detached points of rock, which formed a kind of steep staircase, that every moment gave the waggon such violent shocks as to threaten to break it to pieces. But this was not the most perilous part of the business; for by means of ropes fastened to the wheels, we sometimes bore them up or let them run, as appeared most convenient; It was when we encountered the smooth, slippery declivities, that we were in the greatest danger. Here the Beasts and carriage were frequently on the very verge of a tremendous precipice. In these situations we got to the highest side of the declivity, and pulled with all our united force the ropes that were fastened to the waggons; for without this precaution, it would have been impossible to have

have saved either the carriage, or oxen that drew it, from destruction.

We were obliged to climb this mountain twice, having to fetch our other waggon, which likewise descended in safety, after much labour and fatigue.

I considered this mountain as a barrier nature had placed between me and her choicest treasures, and I determined, if possible, to overcome the difficulty; I well knew, that the way from Auteniquas to *Ange-Kloof* was deemed impracticable for any carriage, myself being the first that had made the attempt; this reflection gratified my vanity, especially as the enterprize was crowned with success; but punishment followed temerity; for I now found myself in a most barren, black desert.

We

We had intirely lost sight of the delightful and fertile country of Auteniquas; the mountains we had crossed, or more properly slid from, intirely obstructing the view of those majestic forests we had so long admired. The valley we were now entering appeared a tedious desert, without the least appearance of verdure; a similar chain of mountains, which extend themselves in a parallel direction, seeming barely to produce some miserable plants that grow in small clusters, surrounded by the wood, called *Wage-Eoom*. The extensive desert formed between these eminences, is of an amazing length, which has given it the name of *Ange-Kloof*, or Long Valley.

My intention being to go northward, we continued our march for seven hours, crossing the river *Queur Boom*, which in this valley is no more than a shallow rivulet, not bearing the least appearance of  
that

that rapid stream, which two months before, had so endangered my life when in pursuit of the Balbuzard.

With some dull melancholy encampments, we continued our wearisome journey; and after twenty-two hours march passed another river, properly called *Krom Rivier* (the Crooked or Winding River) whose current is so amazingly serpentine, that we were perpetually meeting with it, crossing ten times in the course of our journey. As we advanced, the rocks on each side approached nearer to each other; the valley bearing the appearance of a marshy gutter; six leagues of which miserable road tired my oxen exceedingly. We were now come again to *Krom-Rivier*, for the last time, for it here turns eastward, and falls into the sea, and our steps were directed northward. In this place I left one of my horses that was sick, and unable to travel, not being willing to  
stop



stop and wait the event of an uncertain cure. *Ange-Kloof* has some few scattered habitations, that resemble more the dens of animals than the dwellings of men. These people breed but few cattle.

When the east wind blows in this country the cold is extreme; I felt it so during the whole time of my stay in this place; and every morning we had white frosts. I do not know the exact length of this dreary valley; but it took us up forty-six hours to pass it.

After an advance of seven or eight leagues, we crossed the *Diep-Rivier* (the Deep River;) ten leagues from which, on the 7th of August, we encamped on the borders of that called *Gamtoos*, which takes its name from an unfortunate Captain who was shipwrecked there.

We

We had a very steep and dangerous mountain to pass before we reached this spot; two of my oxen were killed in the desert, being embowelled by the pointed rocks; I owed this loss to the carelessness of those who were to conduct the second waggon, but had imprudently left it. The beautiful appearance of this country seemed to promise a recompense for the disagreeable days and severe cold we had encountered, in passing the valley of *Ange-Kloof*.

The first night of my encampment in this place, as I was laying awake in my tent, I thought I heard an uncommon noise; I listened attentively, and found I was not mistaken, plainly distinguishing singing and other expressions of mirth, which seemed at no great distance. I immediately called my men, who had likewise heard it. The question was, whether they were Hottentots or Caffrees; if the latter,  
they

they were to be feared; not that they thirst for human blood, (as some ignorant writers have advanced) more than other savages, but on account of the odious treatment they have received from the colonists, which leads them to wage perpetual war, supposing vengeance is a natural right.

I shall hereafter relate some facts, that will do more than weak and vain reasoning, in proving which is the greater barbarian, an African savage, or a white colonist.

I was the same colour with their enemies, this was a sufficient reason to be confounded in the number of their victims; I put all my people under arms, we then left our camp, and moved cautiously forward. The noise presently became more distinct, and we discovered some fires; I could not now believe they were Caffrès, as this measure must infallibly have betrayed them, and had they thought to con-  
ceal

ceal themselves, they would doubtless have been silent. However, being resolved to guard against the worst that might happen, I placed myself in ambuscade, wishing to surprise them in case they advanced to seize or pillage my camp, at the same time sending two of my people to reconnoitre. These soon returned, informing me it was a false alarm that had disturbed us, it being only a hoord of Hottentots, that were diverting themselves with singing and dancing. I was pleased with this information, as it would afford me an interesting interview on the morrow.

We now returned to the camp, and passed the remainder of the night in great tranquillity. In the morning I was awakened by the warbling of birds, some of which were totally unknown to me. I found part of them very beautiful, the bright copper-coloured Starling, crested cuckow, and the King Fisher, were among the number.

Game

Game appeared to be in great abundance, a multitude of Pheasants rising before me. I likewise saw several Gazells, of that species called *Bos-Bock*, and the facility with which we could take these creatures gave me great pleasure.

While I was amusing myself with shooting birds, I gave my Hottentots permission to visit those who had alarmed us the preceding night. An acquaintance was soon formed, I was introduced, and we were mutually satisfied with each other. The women every night brought us a quantity of milk ; these people possessing a large stock of cattle, they gave me some sheep, and a couple of oxen for my waggon ; but unwilling to be in their debt, I presented them with knives, steels, and some tobacco.

My men were soon favorites with the Hoord, each obtaining a female companion,



nion, who without ceremony established themselves at our camp for the time we meant to remain here:

I was informed that I might chance to find some Hippopotamuses at the mouth of the river. I had never seen any of these creatures, being therefore only four or five leagues from the sea, and wishing to procure this animal, I proceeded to the spot, but the river was so wide, and the borders so obstructed with large trees, that all my labour was useless.

I passed the days in walking about the environs, and during the night lay in wait, in hopes they would come out of the water to graze, but could never obtain the satisfaction of seeing one. On the other hand, the Elephant and Buffalo were so common and easily killed, that we abounded with provisions, and furnished the former husbands of the ladies, now at

our camp, with as much as they pleased. Being better armed I hunted for them, obliging them by every method in my power, wishing even in the midst of the desarts of Africa to make myself respected and beloved.

I cannot pass on without remarking, that though some historians have given the character of jealousy to the Hottentots, these, at least, were not acquainted with that cruel passion; should I in future meet with others possessed of it, I shall declare the fact with equal veracity.

CHAP.

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## CHAP. XV.

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ALARMED BY A TROOP OF ELEPHANTS—REFLECTIONS ON THE DUTCH SETTLEMENTS AT THE CAPE — TAKES LEAVE OF THE HOTTENTOT HOORD—PURSUES HIS JOURNEY.

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**M**Y kindness had gained the confidence and good-will of those worthy savages, who entertained so high an opinion of me, that they undertook nothing of moment without first asking my advice.

One day a party of them came to complain that the Hyænas were perpetually thinning their flocks. I readily credited

these assertions, having recently had one of my oxen devoured by those animals. Delighted at the thought of hunting with them, I fixed on the next morning for that purpose, and in consequence of this appointment, they were ready at my tent by break of day, to the number of a hundred, well armed with bows and arrows. I immediately put myself at their head, and we began, without loss of time, to beat about the environs with our dogs.

I hoped we should be able to destroy most of the wild beasts that infested this part of the country, but the noise of three discharges of my carbine, (which had brought down as many animals) dispersed and afrighted the rest, driving them to such a distance, that during my stay in this place, no others ever made their appearance.

Some days after an event happened  
which

which might have been attended with serious consequences. In the middle of the night we were awaked by a horrible din ; we soon found it proceeded from a troop of Elephants, which had surrounded our camp. They were so amazingly numerous, that we thought it unadvisable to dispute their passage ; my camp, animals and carriages would have been pulverized in a moment ; fortunately they made no stay, and we escaped the danger.

At day break we were visited by our neighbours, who had been equally terrified during the night, and came to inform me I must never attack this kind of Elephant, which was very dangerous and malignant, and their flesh good for nothing, being extremely unwholesome ; in a word, that these red Elephants——red Elephants! the very name gave me an inclination to see them, and promised me additional information,



mation, for I had never before either heard or read of them.

The animals had retired into the forest, and gained a spot only covered with underwood, where it would have been extremely imprudent to attack them. I ordered my Hottentots to take a circle and gain the opposite side of the wood, then to set light to the dried grass in a number of places, and fire their muskets, which would oblige the animals to pass near the foot of a rock upon which I was posted with some of my best marksmen, out of the reach of danger ; every thing succeeded to my wish. They had no sooner obeyed my orders, than the whole troop took the alarm and approached the spot where I was stationed ; a dozen discharges was the reception we bestowed on them, on which they retired with precipitation.

In vain should I attempt to describe  
the

the multiplied signs of fury they expressed, on seeing themselves pursued on one side by the blazing bushes and grass, and opposed on the other by our shot, which barred up the only passage by which they could escape the danger. They exerted themselves as much as the enormous weight of their bodies would permit, the loudness of their cries, with the crashing of a number of trees, which they overthrew in their flight, formed altogether a kind of horrid tumult, and struck an awe and terror on my mind, even though I was so sheltered by the rock as to be entirely out of danger.

We wounded one, who had since mingled with the rest in such a manner, that it was impossible to distinguish or get another shot at it, but by its continued bellowing I concluded the hurt was desperate, and that it could not possibly escape. I resolved therefore to seek it the next

day, and calling my people together we regained the camp.

I was at first surpris'd at the appearance of these animals, and thought the redness of their skins very extraordinary ; but remarking afterwards that the earth in this part of the country was nearly of the same colour, and reflecting that the Elephant passes great part of his time in grovelling in wet marshy places, I concluded it reached no further than the surface, and I was convinced next morning, on finding it dead, that I had not been mistaken in my conjecture.

My people, not intimidated by what our neighbours had reported, of the danger of this provision, cut off the trunk for my use, securing for themselves the other parts of the animal. It was a female, nine feet six inches in height, one of the tusks weighed thirteen pounds, the other ten ;  
for

for it is observable, that whether male or female, this beast always has the left tusk smaller and more polished than the right, which is occasioned by taking its food from the left side, and their manner of, grasping with the trunk the branches on which they feed, preparatory to conveying them to the mouth, occasions a considerable friction on that side, while the right is scarce ever touched; besides this, they are accustomed to turn up the earth with the left tusk.

I began to take great pleasure in this kind of hunting, which I found more diverting than dangerous. I cannot comprehend why travellers have so interlarded their works with tedious accounts respecting the strength and courage of this animal, and so exaggerated the danger to which they are exposed who hunt them. It is true, if a man should be fool-hardy enough to attack an Elephant on an open plain,

plain, if his ball failed to take effect, certain death would be the consequence, as the utmost swiftness of his horse would bear no comparison with the trot of the furious and powerful enemy in pursuit of him; but if the hunter takes proper advantages, all the strength and fury of the animal must yield to his superior address. I confess his first appearance impresses the mind with astonishment, awe and terror, but one presently becomes accustomed to his aspect.

A prudent man, before he attempts this kind of chase, will endeavour to discover the temper, swiftness and recourses of this animal; but above all, he should secure himself a safe retreat in case of missing his aim and being pursued; but these precautions taken, this hunting is only an amusing exercise, a game in which there is fifty to one for the player.

While



While I stopped in this canton, I was continually varying my encampment, according to my different pursuits, but ever took care to fix my tent on the smiling banks of the *Gamtoos*, where I added considerably to my collection.

The 11th of September, at six o'clock in the morning, we decamped; I had before acquainted our neighbours with my intended removal, who received the news with the most sincere regret; indeed, it was reciprocal; these good people having inspired me with the most cordial attachment. "Is it possible," said I, "that  
"so much sweetness and simplicity should  
"have been so vilely calumniated!—  
"Are these the savages of Africa, who  
"have been represented as thirsting for  
"the blood of strangers—Who are even  
"mentioned with horror?" Their goodness of heart and affability, had the more effect on me, as I was already plunged in the  
bosom

bosom of their deserts, where I saw nothing that could make me dread any dangers for the future.

All this country is inhabited by Hoords of Gonaquais, who differ essentially from the Hottentots of the colonies ; indeed, they now seem to have no relation to each other, the former being called savage Hottentots. Before I proceed much farther I shall elucidate this subject, concerning which people in general have formed very imperfect ideas.

They are no longer, as formerly, a nation uniform in its manners, customs and inclinations ; the establishment of the Dutch colony was the fatal epocha of their disunion, and of the differences which distinguish them at this day.

When, in 1652, the Surgeon *Riebek*, on his return from India to Amsterdam,  
opened

opened the eyes of the directors to the importance of a settlement at the Cape of Good-Hope; they wisely thought the enterprize could not be better executed than by the genius that contrived it, and furnished him with full power, and every thing that could contribute to the success of his project.

Arrived in Table-bay, *Riebek*, who was a skilful politician, and happy conciliator, employed every winning art to gain the good-will of the Hottentots; covering with honey the brim of the impoisoned vase. Caught by such deceitful baits, these masters, by prescription, of all this part of Africa, did not fore-see how much the profanation would injure their rights, authorities, repose and happiness. Indolent by nature, true cosmopolites, without inclination to cultivate their land, why should they trouble themselves about strangers settling in a small corner of the country,

country, which was useless, and frequently uninhabited? A little further, or a little nearer, they thought immaterial, provided they found pasture for their flocks, which were the only riches worthy their consideration.

The political avarice of the Dutch entertained great hopes from such a peaceable beginning; and as they never neglect any advantage that fortune may happen to give them, did not fail to consummate the work, by offering the Hottentots two seducing, and, to them, irresistible baits—tobacco and brandy. From this moment, no more liberty! no more pride! no more nature! no longer Hottentots! no longer men! The unhappy savages, bewitched by these intoxicating poisons, cannot bear to leave the source whence they are derived; on the other hand, the Hollanders, who, for a pipe of tobacco, or a glass of brandy, could purchase an ox, took care  
to

to make every advantage of such profitable neighbours. The colony spreads, increases in strength, and the Hottentots see that power, which dictates laws to all this part of Africa, rise on foundations they cannot now destroy ; and triumph over every obstacle that would bar its ambitious cupidity. The fame of its prosperity invites others to settle here, who judging after the common mode, that being most powerful is sufficient authority, commit every act of devastation ; cancel every sacred and respectable bond ; seizing, in different parcels, all the lands that governors or their favorites find convenient.

The natives thus betrayed, drained, and beset on all sides, take very opposite measures ; those who were yet interested in the preservation of their cattle, sought refuge among the mountains, towards the north and north-east, but this was much the smallest number ; the others, ruined by  
brandy



brandy and tobacco, poor, stripped of all could not think of quitting the fatal spot, but regardless of their ancient manners and original (every remembrance of which is now totally extinguished) weakly fold their service to the whites, who, from submissive strangers, became enterprizing imperious masters; whose riches speedily augmented by the multiplied labours of the unfortunate Hottentots, who each day became more degraded, more degenerate.

Some poor miserable Hoords yet exist as they can, in the different cantons belonging to the colonists; these have not even the choice of their own chiefs, who receive this authority from the officers of the company; the governor having an exclusive right to the appointment.

Whenever a chief is nominated, he repairs to Cape-Town, where he receives a large cane, like those of our running footmen,

footmen, with this difference, that the head is only made of copper, on which is engraven, in capital letters, the word *Captain*; from which time the unhappy Hoord (which has long lost its original name) takes that of the new chief, and is called, for example, *The Hoord of Captain Keis*; and Captain Keis becomes the creature, the spy and slave of administration, and for the Hoord, a new tyrant.

The governor seldom knows the person for whom this office is solicited; taking him on the recommendation of one of the colonists near the Kraal, who obtains the office for one of his creatures, building on his gratitude for the patronage, and expecting to hold all the unhappy vassals at command, should his occasions require their service; thus, without preliminaries, without regard to justice, the defenceless Hoord is obliged to receive laws from a man who is unequal to the task; and the

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interest

interest of the multitude is sacrificed to the convenience of an individual.

Such are the people now distinguished by the appellation of, Hottentots of the Cape, or Colonies; but these must not be confounded with the Hottentot savages, called, in derision, *Jackal Hottentots*; who live far from the arbitrary dominion of the Dutch; preserving, in the midst of deserts, their original innocence and purity of manners.

Arrived at a part of my travels, where having intirely left the first-mentioned people behind, I found myself among the second; it is unnecessary to enter into tedious details of the particular differences that distinguish them; one remark, one certain truth, may suffice: In every part, where the natives live entirely unconnected with the whites, their manners are mild and amiable; on the contrary, an acquaintance  
with

with the Europeans, alters and corrupts their natural character, which amazingly degenerates ; and this remark, which is a melancholy truth, seldom admits of an exception.

When among distant nations, northward of the Cape, under the tropic, I saw whole Hoords surround me with childish curiosity, approaching with confidence, and touching my beard, hair and face ; I could not help saying, “ I have nothing to fear from these people ; it is the first time they ever saw an European.”

I have given into this digression the more willingly, as I wished to fix some degree of attention on the more serious particulars of my observation ever returning with pleasure to these interesting, though artless details.

The Hoord, who were all very loath to bid adieu, accompanied me to the river *Louri*, four leagues from the Gamtoos; here we stopped to take leave of our good friends, regaling them with some glasses of brandy, and pipes of tobacco. Some of the women, who had attached themselves to my Hottentots, during our acquaintance, wished to follow us; but I had several times remarked, though I feigned not to take notice of it, that disputes had arisen among my men on their account, which were ever attended with neglect of duty, for which reason I peremptorily refused permission for them to accompany us.

One, indeed, had appeared very diligent, taking care of my cows and goats, and washing my linen; these were interested motives for retaining her; but I had another reason that pleaded more powerfully in her behalf.—A mutual and tender



der affection subsisted between her and my faithful Klaas: Could I rend their hearts asunder, and wound two by one fatal stroke of unfeeling policy?—Shew myself severe to the man, who, in the hour of danger, would have hazarded his life in my defence?—I care not whether it be called injustice or weakness, I distinguished Klaas from his comrades, enjoying, at least, the pleasing idea of having made two beings happy, though it was not in my power to make all so.

I had no reason to repent this step, for Ragel (the name I gave her) served me with the greatest fidelity to the end of these Travels.

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## C H A P. XVI.

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JOURNEY CONTINUED—ARRIVES AT A HOTTENTOT KRAAL—DEPARTS ACCOMPANIED BY THE HOORD—CROSSES THE RIVER SONDAG.

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AFTER the departure of the Hoord we continued our way; but a great storm soon obliged us to halt at *Galgebos*; it was five o'clock in the afternoon, and the place so agreeable, that I could willingly have stopped some time, but there was not a single spring near; we therefore continued our rout two leagues further,

ther, and passing the river *Van-Staade*, unyoked our oxen on the banks of a lake, which offered us an ample supply of water.

How much are we obliged to chance for many interesting discoveries, which generally succeed better, because procured by more simple means, than those suggested by our imagination, contrivance, or knowledge. — I received a proof of this truth at the place where we now stopped.

The Hoord I had lately quitted, brought before our departure, a large provision of milk, a pitcher of which I had placed on my waggon, to drink by the way ; but the rain that fell having cooled the air, I found no inconvenience from thirst, and in the evening, going to distribute it among my men, I found it turned, therefore ordered it to be thrown out for the dogs ; but

how much was I surpris'd to find a quantity of excellent butter, which I owed to the shaking of my waggon on the road ! This discovery, which I ever after profited by in my travels, furnished me likewise with a salutary whey, and contributed, no doubt, towards the good health I constantly enjoyed.

The second day a violent storm prevented our departure ; it was really tremendous ! the hailstones which fell as big as pullets eggs, greatly annoying my cattle. I was obliged to kill one of my goats, who was mortally wounded by them, which was really a loss to me, she being ready to kid.

At length the weather changing, we abandoned the lake ; and after crossing two rivers, the little and great *Swaar-Kops*, about the middle of the day, fixed our camp on the banks of the latter.

I soon

I soon after perceived the traces of some animal that was unknown to me ; I made my people remark it, who assured me it was the print of a Rhinoceros's foot ; while they were fixing my camp, I was following the track ; but night approaching made me lose it, and I returned without success.

Near this second river, which was very large, there was a Hoord of savages, whose kraal consisted of nine or ten huts, containing fifty or sixty people at most.

These Hottentots advised me not to pass the river *Bosbies-Man*, that runs near this place, persuading me to turn towards the left, and gain the interior part of the country ; as I should, by that means, evade a large troop of Caffrees, who had alarmed the whole canton, spreading destruction, where ever they came.

The



The unhappy inhabitants, to escape a violent death, had abandoned their huts, carrying with them the poor remains of their flocks; in a word, they advised me, if I regarded my safety, not to approach Caffraria. This information had its weight; I assembled my people in order to advise on the best measures, being glad to sound their dispositions in this particular. The result accorded with my own intentions; it was, that we should (without going too far out of our way) endeavour to avoid this dangerous troop of Caffrees; and that, as we were already near them, keep guard day and night for fear of a surprize; that we should encamp in future in the open country, and have our oxen watched in their pastures by four men, well armed; my horses were no more to leave the camp, that in case of danger they might be ever ready; my large gun was to remain in the tent, and three fires was the appointed signal for calling

calling those of our people together, whose occupations might have led them from the encampment.

These precautions taken, I mounted my horse, and followed by some of my Hottentots, made a strict search in the environs, to discover if any Caffrees were ranging about, being determined to shoot any that might come with intent to surprise us, if I could not succeed in taking them alive. After dinner we continued our search; the banks of the river were covered with thorny trees; the earth sandy, abounding with underwood, harbouring great quantities of game, some of which I killed for present use.

We saw nothing that could occasion any uneasiness; being therefore, convinced that we were in no immediate danger from these dreaded Caffrees, we raised our camp, and quitted *Swaar-Kops*.

The

The Hoord of Hottentots, alarmed at the very name of these dreadful enemies, purposed to relinquish their present residence, and establish themselves at some distance from Caffraria; accordingly, when I was ready to depart, they came and entreated permission to follow, and put themselves under the protection of my camp.

Though nothing could possibly have happened more agreeable to my own wishes, yet I made a merit of my acquiescence; this kept them in perfect order, while their company encouraged my men, who wanted such a stimulative to support their courage.

Besides the advantage of having such a reinforcement, my little artillery was equal to whole clouds of assaygays (though the Caffrees are very skilful in the use of them) and would have rendered useless every  
every

every effort of an army of savages, had I been well supported by my people.

In less than two hours the huts were unfurnished, the effects packed, and placed on the backs of their oxen; I then made half the Hoord set off with the cattle belonging to the Hottentots, two of my men well armed escorting them, having one of my horses, that in case of an attack they might speedily return and inform me. An hour after we followed with the cows, sheep, and all the women and children of the Hoord, mounted on oxen, a part of their men walking behind, escorted by six of my huntsmen.

My waggons proceeded next, guarded by the rest of my men. Mounted on my best horse, I kept galloping around on every side, fearful of some ambuscade; for I was well assured, that in case of a sudden surprise, the whole caravan would have  
been

been a scene of dismay, and the prey of a moment.

I was armed at all points, a pair of double barrelled pistols in my pockets, a similar pair in my girdle, a double barrelled gun at the pommel of my saddle, a large hanger by my side, and a dagger at my waistcoat button; thus I could have fired ten times in a minute. These weapons somewhat incommoded me, but I resolved not to quit them, as well for my own safety as the confidence with which they seemed to inspire my new auxiliaries, who depending on my power and resolution, continued their way in tranquillity.

This caravan was an amusing, I might say a magnificent spectacle; the circles it was obliged to make in following the different windings of the hills, rocks and interspersed thickets, presented it every minute in a new point of view; sometimes  
the



the advanced guard was lost to the sight, then instantly rising, I could discover them far as the eye could reach, slowly climbing the summit of a mountain, the main body following in good order, the women suckling or feeding their children, some crying, others singing or laughing; the men chattering, or smoking the social pipe, regardless of their before dreaded enemy.

Not quite so satisfied as these moving puppets, my eyes were open to every danger; I could not help considering my critical situation, at three thousand leagues from my adopted country, the only one of my colour among such a number, nor could I forbear congratulating myself on the proof of that confidence which suffered a stranger to conduct their steps through pathless deserts, while they implicitly obeyed and relied on him as the sole author of their preservation.

We had not travelled far, before our dogs, who were beating about the thicket, made a sudden stand, and began barking; fear immediately seized the whole company, whose imaginations formed an ambuscade of Caffrees; for my own part, I could not give into this absurd opinion, as my advanced guard (who were in sight though at a great distance) had passed in perfect safety, and were continuing their rout in good order. On examination into the cause of the alarm, I found my dogs had surrounded a Porcupine, which was defending itself in the midst of them; I shot it on the spot, and lest the Hottentots should be alarmed at the report of my piece, returned immediately and endeavoured to laugh them out of the panic this little adventure had occasioned.

The porcupine defends itself with great resolution, its quills shielding it from an attack; its common manner of repulsing

a dog is, by throwing himself sideways on the foremost, who thus touched, returns no more to the charge, as some of the quills are sure to remain in his flesh, which generally discourages even the most ferocious. One of my Hottentots was ill for more than six months by a wound he received in the leg from one of these animals.

Mr. Mallard, an officer in the regiment of Pondicherry (when at the Cape) having one day teased a Porcupine, the enraged creature wounded him in the leg, which almost occasioned his losing the limb, and notwithstanding every possible care, he suffered cruelly for four months, one of which he passed in bed.

The Porcupine is excellent eating, and frequently served at the politest tables at the Cape.

After an hour and a half's march we  
VOL. I. Y halted,

halted, but stopped no longer than was sufficient to gather a good quantity of salt from the banks of a salt-water lake, which was in our way, two leagues from which I rode a little to the left, in order to view the remains of some habitations that had been plundered and afterwards burnt by the Caffrees ; nothing remained but pieces of the walls, blackened and calcined by the flames, which presented a horrible image in the desert.

An hour after we reached our advanced guard, which had stopped on the borders of the *Kouga*, where we pitched our camp.

The *Kouga* (properly speaking) is nothing more than a rivulet, whose water runs very slowly, some only now remained in hollows, where we found a great number of excellent Tortoises, but very small, the largest not weighing more than three pounds. Before night I caused a  
kind

kind of inclosure to be made, of bushes and arms of trees, for our cattle. While the men were thus employed, the women were picking up all the dry wood they could find, to light up several fires; this was indispensibly necessary, to prevent being surprized by the Caffrees, or an attack from Lions, who are very numerous in this Canton:

We remained here 'till the twentieth, when, (just as our provisions were expended) I was fortunate enough to kill three Buffaloes and two Bubales: On the borders of the rivulet I likewise procured some Pintadoes, or speckled fowl, exactly resembling those of Europe; when well boiled they were tolerably good, but roasted or broiled worth nothing; these indeed appeared to be very old. I also found some other species of birds, and among others the *Barbus*.



We continued our journey in the same order we had before observed, and had not proceeded above an hour, when our advanced guard halted, and sent me word, that they had discovered the track of human feet. The fears of our people immediately formed a large body of Caffrees, who were now heard in every wind. I hastened to the spot, and examined those marks; they did not appear quite fresh, yet it was a serious discovery, and I felt it was not to be neglected, nor any time lost in putting ourselves in a posture of defence, for which purpose we folded the cattle and arranged our camp in the best manner possible.

This business completed, I set forward attended by my two best marksmen, and followed the track for more than an hour, which conducted us to a place where we found the remains of a fire unextinguished, and some bones of a sheep perfectly fresh,  
by

by all which it was evident that savages had passed the night there. On sight of the bones I could not be persuaded they were Caffrees, as those people never breed any sheep, though it might be possible they had pillaged some from their enemies. Uncertain what to believe, I continued my search, 'till at length, weary of beating about the country, and finding the track carried us too far, we returned to our camp. The night passed in great tranquillity; the day following was ushered in by a violent storm, and continued rain, which obliged us to keep close in our tents. On the morrow we continued our rout, and were under the disagreeable necessity of crossing the *Kouga* fourteen times, which from its various windings we encountered every quarter of an hour. This river runs on a bed of stones and rock, which shook our waggons very much, and obliged us by the fatigue it occasioned to halt rather early.

We passed the night by the *Droogee River* (Dry-River.) Being now so large a company, it took a considerable time of an evening to fix our camp, tend the cattle, gather wood for fires, and cook the victuals, which altogether was a laborious, though an indispensable duty. Our dogs at this place were our purveyors, the country abounding with Pintadoes, who about sun set roost by hundreds on the surrounding trees, making a perpetual and disagreeable noise, that alarmed our dogs, and occasioned them to bark violently at the birds, who being apprehensive of danger sought security at a greater distance from these disturbers; but the wings of this fowl being small, the weight of their bodies soon brought them to the ground, where they became an easy prey, furnishing us with plenty of food without the expence of a single charge of powder.

We afterwards endeavoured to procure  
another

another recruit by the same means, but the remaining Pintadoes (possibly grown wise from the misfortunes of their late companions) would not now quit the trees, but a few shot procured us as many as we pleased. During the night we constantly heard the roaring of Lions at a distance.

On the twenty-third, after six hours march, we arrived at a fine river, called *Sondag*, which was at this time at its greatest height; the sky also lowering and bearing every appearance of rain, made us apprehensive of being stopped by an overflow, we therefore prepared some rafts, and cutting a sufficient quantity of wood and materials to enclose our beasts on the opposite shore, we embarked our waggons by parcels, with all our effects, and half the people; these encamped, on their landing, under the conduct of Swanepoel; the beasts, as on a former occasion, swam

over. The day following I joined them with the rest; these preparations and the re-establishment of our waggons, &c. occupied us to the end of the month.

In this interval I procured a number of birds, and salted several Coudous, but had nearly lost my poor Kees; an account of which incident may give an idea of my simple and uniform method of living. I was just sitting down to dinner when I heard the warbling of a bird that I was unacquainted with, my meal was forgot in an instant, I snatched up my gun, left the tent, and in a quarter of an hour returned with the bird but was much surprised to find my table empty. Kees having dispatched my provision with wonderful celerity.

I had punished him very severely the night before for stealing my supper, therefore could not have supposed he would  
have



have so soon forgot it; Kees however disappeared; this was by no means unusual to him in similar cases, though he used constantly to return about tea time, with an air of innocence, unconcernedly occupying his usual place by my side, but this evening he was missing, and the next day we saw nothing of him.

I now felt some uneasiness, fearing he was entirely lost. On the third day one of my men who had been fetching water, saw my monkey ranging in the neighbouring trees, but the rogue, at sight of him, ran away and concealed himself.

I immediately went in search of him, beating all the environs with my dogs, suddenly I heard a scream similar to that of Kees, when I used to return from shooting and had left him behind. I immediately stopped, and soon perceived him in a tree, half concealed by a large branch;

I enticed him by every means I could think of, but in vain ; he would not trust to these signs of friendship, but obliged me to climb the tree, when he immediately suffered himself to be taken.

Pleasure and fear alternately marked his actions ; I returned with him to the camp, it was there he expected his punishment ; I had a great mind to tie him up, but that would have deprived me of the amusement his tricks afforded, I therefore pardoned him ; perhaps he had before been punished when he did not deserve it, for his character of thievery made me ready enough to believe what was said to his disadvantage ; possibly I might be wrong in this, as it was far from unlikely that my Hottentots had sometimes committed what poor Kees bore the blame of.

CHAP.

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CHAP. XVII.

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THE AUTHOR CONTINUES HIS JOURNEY — ARRIVES AT SEVERAL DESERTED HABITATIONS — AN ALARM — IS JOINED BY SOME FRESH HOTTENTOTS — DISAGREEMENT AND PARTING.

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THE *Sondag* is a river whose source is in high mountains, that are always covered with snow, which has procured them the name of *Sneuw Bergen*, (Snow Mountains.) This river is encreased by several small streams, and discharges itself into the sea at about ten leagues from the spot where I then was.

The

The first of October we continued our journey, and in seven hours came to the ruins of a pillaged habitation, which we soon after passed. At four we took our station by the side of a lake, and were very happy in having large fires, as several Hyænas and two Lions were this night particularly troublesome, which obliged us to watch and fire at them very often, this being the only means of keeping them at a distance, so determined did they appear in their resolution to visit us.

At day break we saw a great number of *Spring-Deer*, I therefore determined to hunt the whole day, our provision being nearly exhausted. The conducting a whole Hoord, together with their cattle, is a task that requires some little care and foresight, for without it, in these deserts, the whole party would frequently be in danger of perishing for want of food; this, however, was not likely to be the case, as we were  
fortunate

fortunate enough to kill seven of the Gazells.

These animals are very swift, but easily overtaken by a person on horseback, as they assemble in flocks like sheep, and crowd together in such a manner as mutually to obstruct each others speed, and a ball well directed, will sometimes pass through two or three of them.

The day following we moved sooner than we intended, on account of the badness of the water; in four hours we procured better, by meeting with a branch of the *Sondag*.

Our oxen now began to be so fatigued from the extreme heat, that we were fearful of losing some of them on the way, though we gave them as much relief as possible by frequently shifting their burthens.

On



On the fourth we quitted the stream entirely, and travelled but three leagues, the heat being insupportable, and the cattle not recovered from the fatigue of the preceding day.

On the fifth we sat forward at three in the morning ; at seven reached another abandoned habitation, the proprietors of which (actuated no doubt by fear) had not removed any part of their effects, every utensil being in its proper place. As there was not the least mark of fire or any other devastation, it plainly proved their sudden flight was caused by a false alarm. The heat being still excessive, we took up our quarters here, but I would not permit my people to touch the most minute article ; after resting a while we departed, and continued our march for four hours.

On the morrow we passed two habitations deserted like the former, and in the  
same

same state. We continued our way, and four hours march brought us to the banks of the little river Vogel, where we just stopped to bait, as our oxen wanted water and food. At twelve the sky became overcast, and thick clouds obscured the face of the sun; I profited by this circumstance, hoping to gain *Agter-Bruyntjes-Hoogte*, but meeting with a lake at the foot of the mountain, it engaged us to stop and encamp.

During the night our fires were perceived by some Hottentot savages; as these people approached they were discovered by our dogs, who gave us notice of it by barking violently, and running backwards and forwards in great agitation. The major part of my people were persuaded they were Caffrees; and fear, as on a former occasion, presented, on every side, the dreaded enemy, from whom they wished to fly, and trust to the bushes for safety,

ty, rather than unite in a well-armed determined body, resolutely bent to defend their lives and property from a lawless and daring assailant.

Klaas and myself were greatly exasperated at their cowardice, even the venerable Swanepoel joined in trying to inspire these pusillanimous Hottentots with courage; protesting, that whatever might be the event, he would hazard even life itself in my service. In the midst of our confusion, a voice was heard, which, in tolerable dutch, entreated we would call off our dogs; this we instantly did, and immediately discovered the authors of this dreadful alarm, to be a small body of peaceful Hottentots. I desired them to approach; the men were about fifteen in number, besides women and children, and were now travelling to avoid the fury of war; they told me, that when I had passed the mountains, I should find several

veral habitations deserted, whose late possessors had assembled together to repel the enemy; but that, for their own part, they resolved totally to quit this district, and draw nearer the Dutch colonies, as the Caffrees were raging about the country, vowing destruction to all that fell in their way.

Having passed the night in conferences of this nature, and learnt all I was desirous of knowing, their information did not dispose me to consider the Caffrees as ferocious animals, nurtured with human gore, sparing neither age nor sex, and totally regardless of the rights of hospitality. I was sufficiently acquainted with the disposition of the Colonists to place to their account the calumnies with which the unfortunate Caffrees have been loaded.

They are not naturally cruel, living like the other natives of this part of Africa, on the simple produce of their flocks;

their nourishment milk, and skins their cloathing; peaceful by nature, warriors only from necessity; and by no means a nation whose name ought to inspire horror.

As I wished to be informed of the real motives of these cruel wars, the Hottentots, on being particularly questioned, told me without reserve, that the perpetual vexations and cruel tyranny of the Colonists, was the sole cause; they likewise informed me, that the Boshis-Men (a set of vagabond deserters, of no particular nation, living by rapine, and robbing alike Caffree, Hottentot or Colonist) would willingly instigate the Caffrees to distress, and put in one general proscription, both Colonist and Hottentot; considering the latter as spies, attached to the whites, and employed to ensnare them with the greater facility; perhaps this idea is not totally without foundation, but cannot, by any means, extend to the distant Hoords. Thus  
the



the innocent suffer with the guilty ; for how should savages make a distinction that civilized people are frequently incapable of ? Amongst other information I learned, that the Caffrees had procured a few fire-arms from some of the pillaged habitations, or from the Hottentot Colonists who had been set on unawares.

These people likewise gave me a long detail of the attacks and combats they had sustained, in which the Caffrees had ever been worsted ; this did not seem at all surprizing, as the assaygay, which is their most destructive weapon, and which they throw with exquisite skill, is by no means comparable to fire-arms, especially when directed by marksmen who seldom or ever miss their aim.

I found myself particularly interested in what I heard, and felt an ardent desire to serve these unfortunate beings ; their unhappy fate so much excited my compassion,

that could I but have persuaded my people to accompany me, I would gladly have traversed fifty leagues of Caffraria, and run all hazards, to attempt the establishment of a lasting peace; but on disclosing my wishes, no one seconded my intention; and all persuasion was useless to this terror-struck people, for which reason I was rather sparing of my reproaches, tho' I was far from being so to the Colonists, whose assistance I requested two days after.

A misfortune which had lately happened, contributed not a little to heat my imagination. I was informed, that six weeks before, an English ship, the Grosvenor, East-Indiaman, had been wrecked on the coast, that part of the crew and passengers, escaping the turbulent element, unfortunately fell into the hands of the Caffrees, by whom they were barbarously destroyed, the women excepted who were reserved to undergo still greater hardships; some few, it was supposed,

posed, had escaped, and were now wandering on the coast, or exploring melancholy and almost impenetrable forests, where they could not fail in the end of perishing miserably. Amongst these unfortunate people, were several French officers, prisoners of war, who were coming to Europe.

My heart was wounded by this afflicting detail; a thousand projects bewildered my head. I could not be above fifty leagues from the unfortunate spot—— Various means occurred to succour the unhappy sufferers, whose situation was so truly deplorable. I proposed these means to my companions, but every proposal was refused. In vain I offered presents, prayers, intreaties, nay, even threatenings had no more weight; to these last I must infallibly have fallen a sacrifice, had I not been seconded by three of my bravest fellows, and also shewn the utmost resolution, both in words and actions, being obliged to clap a pistol to the head of one of the

most refractory; however, nothing I could do was of any service to my favourite project; the Hoord I had given leave to accompany us, told me they were *free*, nor did they consider me as their chief, and that they would immediately depart with the fifteen Hottentots recently arrived; even my own men declared they would not hazard being cut to pieces by the Caffrees, and seconded the general cry, openly avowing their determination to return to the colonies, if I still persisted in my resolution.

The representations and persuasions of Klaas and myself at length brought over two, who consented to hazard themselves with me; Swanepoel was one, but four was insufficient. In vain I painted to these savage Hoords, the ingratitude with which they repaid the services I had rendered them; in vain I called them weak cowards, and worse than Caffrees; all did but encrease their fears, and inspire them  
with

with hatred to myself. Dismay was legibly written on their countenances ; I therefore was silent, ordering a strict guard to be kept, as the night was far advanced ; I then retired to my tent.

At day break I was informed that the strangers were moving, with their wives, children and cattle. I ordered no notice to be taken of this, and without loss of time prepared likewise to depart.

In four hours we traversed the mountain of Agter-Bruyntjes-Hoogte, where we had a refreshing shower ; after which we travelled four hours more, and then encamped for the night.

In our way we saw many uninhabited tenements, which perhaps belonged to those we had just parted from. The soil in this part of the country appeared in general to be good ; the mountains covered with lofty trees, and the plains with the



mini sa-nilotica, and abound with Gazells and *Gnours*; the latter, though good eating, are inferior to the Gazells. By what I had learned from the fifteen Hottentots, I judged I could not be far from the spot where the Colonists meant to assemble; and I flattered myself I should find among them some, whose hearts would readily enter into my pacific measures with the Caffrees, and assist in every endeavour to succour the unhappy people that had been shipwrecked; the image of whose misfortunes perpetually followed me.

How cruel a situation for women! condemned to drag a painful life in all the horrors of agonizing despair. A desire to procure them liberty, to bring them away with me, employed all my thoughts, and deafened me to every obstacle, making me impatient to join the assembled Colonists.

The Translator conceives that it cannot fail to be acceptable to the public to learn,  
that

that Mr. Carter, the Painter, has been prevailed on to publish a most interesting Narrative of the whole of this unfortunate event, which he had an opportunity of writing from the testimony of one of the poor fellows who survived, and with whom he sailed back again to India; and he is now actually engaged in making drawings for engravings to accompany that work, which will appear as soon as they can be well executed.

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## C H A P. XVIII.

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THE AUTHOR ARRIVES AT BRUYNTJES-HOOGTE  
—QUITS IT WITH DISGUST—AUGMENTS HIS  
TRAIN—CONTINUES HIS JOURNEY.

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**W**E began our march at day-break, and in three hours discovered the wished-for settlement; the inhabitants of which

which perceived me at a distance ; and I could see them assembling, and frequently turning to gaze at me with an air of alarm, occasioned, no doubt, by the sight of my baggage and attendants. I spurred my horse, and soon joined them, speaking with great politeness, at the same time making known my name, and pretending I travelled by authority of the Dutch government, to whom I must give an account of my discoveries ; the conclusion of this discourse seemed to have great weight with them, and I was received with every demonstration of joy.

They owned that my beard had puzzled them, which was now of eleven months growth ; nor could they tell what to make of my weapons, my carriages, and large retinue. They had frequently heard of me, and of the numerous inconveniences I had sustained ; but had lately been informed, I had failed in a vessel that lay  
at

at anchor in the bay of Blettenberg, bound for the Isle of Bourbon ; they therefore did not entertain the most distant idea of seeing me. I was then obliged to bear with being asked a hundred questions without having time allowed to answer one.

Before I declared the motives that brought me here, and my resolution to penetrate into Caffraria, I expressed my astonishment that none of them had already attempted to relieve those unhappy Europeans, whose miserable situation they were not unacquainted with ; and that I now hoped to find some, whose hearts would prompt them to go with me towards the coast where the vessel was cast away ; as the Dutch government, I made no doubt, would amply reward those who undertook so glorious an enterprize ; I likewise added, that as the vessel was not yet gone to pieces, they might possibly find

find effects enough in the wreck to enable them to pass their lives comfortably. This last motive seemed to have its weight ; and I hoped a happy issue from the following answer : “ That if things were as I had said, it was right to assist these unhappy people, who were in truth their fellow creatures and brethren.”

One of the most cunning poltrons of the set, whom avarice alone interested, added, “ That the Caffrees had probably stripped the vessel of all that was worth looking after, and in that case, the risk they run in leaving their wives and children to the mercy of the savages, could not by any means be counterbalanced by a precarious prospect of amending their circumstances.”

’Tis true, there was not much to tempt them to undertake the journey, as they could have no view of purloining cattle  
from



from their enemies, having divided twenty thousand since the commencement of hostilities ; the few that remained were secured, by the Caffrees having drove them into places of perfect security.

I used my utmost endeavours to combat the reasons of this man, but in vain ; his avaritious arguments confuting all that humanity could urge ; and as they could not be assured of gain, they absolutely refused their assistance.

It was a vain attempt to alter such hardened obstinacy ; I could not, however, restrain my rage, which broke out into threatenings of the displeasure they would incur from the Dutch government ; concluding with wishing them surrounded by thousands of Caffrees, and lest their conduct should influence some of my people, I abruptly broke off the discourse, and continued my journey.

I ob-

I observed that these Colonists had among them numbers of a mixed race, between a white and a Hottentot; they are generally courageous and enterprising, adhering more to the Colonist than to the Hottentots, whom they regard as their inferiors; they are always the first to march against the Caffrees, signalizing themselves in every rencontre; a knowledge of this made me resolve to leave three of my men, in whom I could confide, in order to comfort with, and if possible engage some of them to follow me, particularly those who knew the country and language of the Caffrees. I instructed them sufficiently in regard to their conduct, and appointed the river *Klein-Vis*, where I was then going, for our place of rendezvous, which we reached and crossed after three hours travel through very bad roads. We rested here for the night, as I could not possibly expect to hear the event of my people's negotiation until the next day.

In

In this place I perceived some marks that denoted the lion to be no stranger here; therefore took the necessary precautions to prevent a surprize, both from that animal, and likewise from the Cafrees. I should have felt but little uneasiness on account of the latter, had it been possible to inform them that I was neither of the *nation* nor of the *disposition* of their persecutors; but they might fall on my camp unawares, and do me great damage before I could come to an explanation; this consideration, therefore, engaged me (contrary to my usual custom) to choose an elevated encampment, from which I could see to a considerable distance all round.

Here I fixed my tent, placing the wag-gons and cattle near us. At the distance of a few paces I constructed some false huts, fixing my fire-arms within gun shot of them, and covering our retreat with branches

ches of trees, so that it could not be perceived; here we determined to pass the night; that in case an enemy presented, and attempted to surprise our camp, we might have a manifest advantage.

The night was by no means quiet, the barking of our dogs giving us a great deal of inquietude, and rendering it impossible to sleep. At day break I discerned at some distance my expected Hottentots, they brought with them three strangers, one of whom, named *Hans* (the son of a white man and Hottentot woman) had lived a good while among the Caffrees, and spoke their language with great facility. Some glasses of Brandy soon gained me his confidence, and procured me information of the present state of affairs.

What I learned from this man confirmed me in the opinion I had before formed, that the Caffrees are in general harmless

harmless and peaceable, but being continually pillaged, harrassed, nay often murdered by the whites, they are obliged to take up arms in their own defence. He likewise informed me, that the report of this Nation being barbarous and bloody, was industriously circulated by the Colonists, in order to justify the atrocious thefts they were daily guilty of towards them, and which they wished to have pass for reprisals. That they often formed pretences of losing cattle, purposely to make inroads into the Caffree settlements, exterminating whole Hoords without distinction of age or sex, carrying away their herds, and laying waste the country ; this means of procuring cattle appearing much easier than the slow method of breeding them, and in this manner *Hans* assured me, twenty thousand had been obtained the last year, at which time he was an eye witness of the following instance of inhumanity.



In destroying a small settlement of Caffrees, a child about twelve years old escaped the general carnage, by concealing himself in a hole, but unfortunately was discovered by one of the marauders, who determined to make a slave of his prize; the commander of this barbarous detachment peremptorily laid claim to the poor little prisoner; the Colonist as firmly refused to deliver him up, which so enraged the savage leader, that he ran with the utmost fury at the innocent object of the dispute, exclaiming—"If I must not have him, neither shalt thou," and accompanied these words with lodging the contents of his piece in the breast of the unfortunate victim, who instantly died.

In addition to the above, I was likewise told that these ferocious extirpators would sometimes amuse themselves with placing their prisoners at a stated distance, in order to try their superiority over each other as expert

expert marksmen. Were I so disposed, I need not stop here, but particular considerations and powerful motives closing my lips, I can only shudder and be silent. I have said enough to shew what those Colonists are, whom Government leave to their excesses, because they are either too weak, or too pusillanimous to strike at the root of this dreadful enormity. Thus then are committed all the horrors that imagination can form an idea of, by people subject to a republican state, distinguished from all others, for its simplicity of manners, and truly philanthropic spirit.

If at any time the Governor receives advice of these atrocious deeds, the distance, (and other reasons which perhaps are not prudent to enquire into) bring them to town so softened and disfigured, that they are scarcely taken any notice of.

A Colonist who lives two hundred leagues

gues up the country, arrives at the Cape, to complain that the Caffrees have taken all his cattle, and intreats a *Commando*, which is a permission to go, with the help of his neighbours, and re-take his property; the Governor, who either does not, or feigns not to understand the trick, adheres strictly to the facts expressed in the petition; a preamble of regular information would occasion long delays—a permission is easily given—'tis but a word—the fatal word is written, which proves a sentence of death to a thousand poor savages, who have no such defence or resources as their persecutors.

Thus the monster (regardless of religion) having compleated his business at the Cape, returns with an inhuman joy to his villainous accomplices, and extends his *Commando* as far as his interest requires; the massacres this occasions, is but the signal for other butcheries; for  
should

should the Caffrees have the audacity to attempt regaining any part of their lost herds, the confusion recommences, and only ceases when there are no more victims or no more plunder.

This perpetual war, or rather robbery, continued during the whole time of my stay in Africa. It was not the speculations of commerce, or love for any particular service that directed my steps, but my natural inclination, and a fondness of new discoveries. I am more acquainted with the interior parts of the country, than with the Colonies of the Cape, or the Cape itself; no personal interest therefore can make me suspected of partiality. I have observed that the political eye is open too late to the establishments that daily spread to such a distance from the seat of Government; the mere name of authority is too insufficient to check the disorders that multiply and vex the interior part of the country; this

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being

being the case, should it ever happen that the Caffrees, and the neighbouring nations, (who have also cause of complaint) were to unite, their junction, at least, would bode no good to the Colonists, nay possibly might in time affect the Cape itself.

At present, the government have more than one means to prevent these misfortunes ; but it is certainly time to employ those means, as dangers ever encrease by delay. I have before observed, that the bare issuing a precept is of no effect ; this the following instance will plainly verify : A governor being informed of some cruel vexations practised against the savages, summoned the author to the Cape, to render an account of his conduct ; the culprit did not even deign to answer the order, but continued harrassing and pillaging in his usual manner, and his disobedience was overlooked and forgotten.



One day I was speaking of these abuses to some Colonists, who told me, that several of them had received similar mandates from the governor, to which they paid no attention. I answered, I was amazed then that the governor did not accompany his orders with a detachment, and in case of refusal, conduct the culprit under a good escort to town. "Do you know," said one of them, "what would be the result of such an attempt? We should instantly assemble, and kill half the soldiers, whom we would salt and send back by those we had spared, with promises to do as much for others that came on the same errand."

Men of this temper are not easily managed; nor is it impossible, but these turbulent spirits may one day throw off the yoke intirely, and give laws to their present nominal rulers; nor would this prove by any means a work of difficulty, especia-

ally, if some informed, artful individual, was to gain the good-will and confidence of the multitude, who already know too well the facility of the enterprize, and advantages of success. He need only represent, in lively colours, that they could raise upwards of ten thousand skilful marksmen, whose every shot would carry death ; and with very little hazard or danger, might overthrow any force government could send into these parts : That riches and abundance would pour in upon them the moment they threw off the oppressive, and frequently tyranic, power of their rulers, whose regulations are in direct opposition to every species of private advantage : That inhabiting a favorable climate, possessors of a fine country, furnished with plenty of game, they might exchange the products of their lands and flocks for every article of luxury, which foreign countries would be glad to bring to the numerous ports and roads with  
which

which their coast is furnished ; while population increasing with riches, they might enjoy all the advantages of an extensive commerce.

These reflections are not new at the Cape, and are, perhaps, the best excuse for their apparent remissness in punishing the enormous outrages of the Colonists ; well knowing the turbulent disposition of these people, naturally robust, and bred in their native woods.

Another motive, which at the time I was in that country might possibly make them slacken the reins of authority, was the assistance they hoped for from these people, if the English had attacked Cape-Town, as was expected, in the year 1781. And the following trait may shew they are to be depended on.

On

On a false alarm being spread, in less than four and twenty hours near twelve hundred of them arrived, and offered their assistance; and would immediately have been followed by others, had they not received orders to the contrary.

I should lead my readers into an error, if what I have said induced them to imagine, that these Colonists are so many Cæsars; this is by no means the case, nor would that account agree with the details already given of their wars with the Caffres.

Born among the rocks and forests, a hardy, or rather savage education, renders them amazingly robust and strong; accustomed from their early youth to lay wait for the dangerous animals of Africa, they are expert at a surprise, or ambuscade; but I much question whether they would dare to face an enemy in the open field, or  
if

if routed ever return to the charge ; being unacquainted with that innate magnanimity which inspires true courage.

From a recollection of the adventure of Saldanha-Bay, it may easily be judged whether I have exaggerated in this account of their character.

It is not thus with the women, the principal part of whom have real presence of mind and courage, fearing no obstacles, and calmly facing danger ; managing a horse, and firing a musket with as much skill as their husbands ; are more indefatigable, never flying from an enemy and may be truly stiled amazons.

I knew a widow that managed her own plantation, who, when the wild beasts attacked her flocks, mounted on horseback and pursued them with the greatest intrepidity ; never quitting the chase 'till  
she



she either killed, or drove them from the canton.

In one of my journies, two years after, in the country of the Namaquias, I saw, in a lonely habitation, a young woman of about twenty, who always accompanied her father on horseback, when at the head of his people he attacked the Boshis-men, who often gave them disturbance; following these wretches, regardless of their impoisoned arrows, with the utmost spirit and bravery; overtaking them in their flight, and shooting them without pity. The annals of the Cape make mention of a great number of women, who have distinguished themselves by actions of bravery, that might do honor to the most courageous of our sex.

On my return to the Cape, the common topic of discourse was the tragical adventure of a widow, who had lived at a distant  
solitary

solitary habitation with her two sons, the eldest of them about nineteen. One gloomy night the family was awakened by the lowing of the cattle, in an inclosure, at a small distance from the house; they immediately seized their weapons, and running to the spot, found a lion had broken through the fence, and was making terrible havock among the oxen. It was only necessary to enter the inclosure, fire and kill the animal, who had no chance of escape; but neither her sons, slaves, or Hottentots, had sufficient courage to attempt it; this undaunted woman, therefore, entered alone, and armed with a musket, approached the scene of confusion; the obscurity of the night prevented her seeing the furious beast 'till she was close by him; she immediately fired her musket, but was so unfortunate as only to wound the animal, who rushed on her in an instant.

The

The screams of the unfortunate mother brought the sons to her assistance.—Furious—desperate—distracted—they fell on the tremendous animal and killed him (though too late) on the mangled body of their parent.

Exclusive of the deep wounds she had received in the throat, and different parts of the body, the lion had bit off one of her hands at the wrist.—Assistance was ineffectual; she died the same night, amidst the vain lamentations and regret of her children and servants.

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## CHAP. XIX.

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THE AUTHOR SENDS MESSENGERS TO KING  
PHAROO — ARRIVES AT KOKS-KRAAL — EN-  
DEAVOURS TO SECURE IT FROM ANY SUDDEN  
ATTACK.

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**H**ANS gave me every explanation in his power relative to Caffraria, informing me that the spot we were now upon was formerly part of the dominion of a puissant Chief, who now resided thirty leagues from us, towards the North, and was called King Pharoo. He likewise persuaded me to go forward, maintaining that so far from having any danger  
to

to apprehend from the inhabitants, they would be well pleased to see me, in hopes that on my return to the Cape, the description I should give of their manners, dispositions and way of life, would so far efface the ill impressions the Colonists had given of them, that they might obtain peace and tranquillity, the only favor they asked of the whites.

This reasoning, on the first view, appeared plausible enough; but on the other hand, it behoved me to weigh every circumstance before I placed too firm a confidence in this man's reports: By too implicit a faith, I might in a moment lose the whole fruits of my voyage, perhaps be massacred.

I well knew the intriguing spirit of the half-bred Natives; this was but the acquaintance of a day, and consequently might be suspected; a glass of Brandy had  
already



already rendered him a traitor, he appeared a friend to the Caffrees, had passed his life among them, and came now from a retreat, where, perhaps, he had only resided for the purpose of observing the motions of the Colonists, the better to betray them; might he not have an inclination to sacrifice me also, in order to divide the booty with the Caffrees, and to gain their favour by leading me into the snare?

After being agitated by a thousand different ideas, I formed, what appeared to me, an easy and safe plan, which would give me time for reflection, and neither endanger my person or property; this was to send a deputation to King Pharoo.

On the first overture of this expedient Hans accepted the commission, which I took for a mark of honesty, and he promised to persuade two or three of his friends to accompany him in this expedi-

tion. I likewise purposed sending two of my Hottentots (Adams and Slinger) they were to give the King an account of all my proceedings for the last eleven months, since I quitted the Cape.

By this information he might conclude that curiosity alone conducted me into his territories. I also charged my messengers to say,—"That born in another world, a total stranger to this country, I could not in any manner be the friend or accomplice of the Colonists; on the contrary, I highly disapproved their conduct; in a word, they might be assured that as long as I remained in his country, I should give him no cause of complaint, by any of my actions or proceedings, as I was actuated by the most innocent motives, namely, to take a view of the country, and collect natural curiosities; and so far from creating disorders, I should, on the contrary, take every occasion to be useful to himself and

and subjects, as I had already been to several Hoords of Hottentots, who trusting to my honour had accepted my services ; I added, that I should on my return to the Cape, render a faithful account to the Governor of all I had seen, and exert myself to the utmost in order to establish peace and harmony between them and the Colonists."

Having thus instructed my deputies, I charged my own Hottentots with a secret commission, which was, if possible, to bring back with them some Caffrees ; this would enable me to judge what degree of confidence they reposed in my assurances, and likewise how far I might trust to them.

Nothing now remained but to stock themselves with provisions, this performed, I gave them some presents for the Caffrarian Prince ; they bade me farewell, promising to return to *Koks-Kraal*, as soon as possible, where I was to wait their arrival.

Next morning we continued our journey, and after three hours march arrived on the borders of the river *Groot-Vis*. The heat was excessive, and the earth covered with large round pebbles, which rendered the way very wearisome to my cattle ; we kept on by the river-side, 'till at length fatigue obliged us to stop, though no later than four o'clock.

While the usual preparations were making for our security, I walked on the banks of the river, not far from which I perceived the remains of a Kraal of Caffres. I was curious to examine it, and found some huts in good preservation, others intirely destroyed, but a more melancholy spectacle soon struck my attention, there was a number of human bones, which, from their appearance, I judged must have lain a long time, and perhaps belonged to the unhappy people who were the first victims of this unjust war.

The

The night of the tenth passed in tolerable tranquillity, though some Hyænas approached our incampment, but being pretty much accustomed to their visits, we sustained but little uneasiness.

In the morning my Hottentots (who had been to fetch water) informed me they had discovered the recent tracks of Hippopotamuses and *Coudous*. Our provisions growing scarce, I determined to give this day to the chase; I therefore sent my people to the banks of the river to discover if possible, the retreat of these animals; I went a different way, in hopes of finding Coudous, or other game, but saw only Gazells and Ostriches, and being on foot, it was impossible to approach them.

I began now to think we should have no sport, when passing a plain where the grafs was high, and interspersed with thickets, I suddenly perceived a group of



seven *Coudous*, who fortunately did not see us. I approached with great precaution, followed by the man I had brought with me; being within two hundred feet, I ordered him to fire first, wishing to reserve my charge 'till they were upon the run. The report of my man's piece put them all to flight; by good fortune they passed within thirty paces of me, I fired, and shot the only male among them. My Hottentot would fain have persuaded me he had wounded it, but on examination we found only one ball had taken place; having covered him with some branches, I tied my handkerchief on a stick which we stuck in the ground, to frighten away the beasts of prey.

As I knew the females would not wander far without the male, we continued the pursuit, and soon after discovered a track of blood, which assured us another was wounded, and at the distance of about four hundred feet, we found it dying.

My Hottentot, whom I had accused of awkwardness, was pleased with the rencontre, though he aimed at the male and struck the female by chance. We skinned and took out the intrails, by which means it was so much lightened that we were able to carry and place it by the male.

Harassed with fatigue and hunger, we made a fire, and broiled some of the liver. I know not whether it was the excellence of the meat, or the sharpness of my appetite, but without seasoning or bread (of which I had not eaten a considerable time) I thought it one of the greatest dainties I had ever tasted.

When we had finished our repast, my Hottentot went to fetch two horses and some of his comrades, who carried our provision to the camp. The kettles were all filled in an instant; in the mean time they broiled steakes on the coals, and in

less than two hours three parts of our meat disappeared.

The Hottentots are gluttons while they have plenty of provisions, at other times they are satisfied with little. In this particular they resemble the Hyæna, and indeed all carnivorous animals, who hastily devour their prey without a thought of the future, though they may possibly be some days before they get a fresh supply of food, appeasing their hunger in the interval with a kind of *Terre Glaise* (Potter's Clay) The Hottentot can eat in one day ten or twelve pounds of meat, but when this is not to be procured, Locusts, a Honey-Comb, or a piece of the leather of his sandals will serve to alleviate the pressing calls of hunger.

I could never make my people comprehend that it was prudent to reserve something for another day, for after having eat

to the degree of excess already recited, they would give the remainder to any chance comers; nor did this prodigality appear to give them the least concern. “We shall hunt, (they said) or we shall sleep,” — for sleep is to them a capital resource in times of need, and I never passed any of the dry or sterile countries, where game is scarce, without finding whole Hoords asleep in their Kraals, which is a certain assurance of their being in a miserable situation; but what is surprising, (and which I should not have affirmed but on repeated experience) they sleep at will, by this means deceiving or at least alleviating the most pressing calls of nature.

They have, notwithstanding, their hours of wakefulness, which even custom cannot conquer, but they then make use of an expedient to prevent sleep, which will scarcely appear probable, though strictly true: they bind the stomach tight with a  
leather

leather girdle, by this means supporting or diminishing hunger. These bandages are likewise a general remedy amongst them, in almost all cases, binding the head or any other suffering part, and supposing that pain is to be expelled by violent pressure; having been often present on these occasions, I have ever observed that when the operation was finished, the patient appeared eased; strange as this may appear, it would not be so generally adopted, did it not, in some measure, answer the intended purpose.

The Hottentots that I had sent to discover the Hippopotimus, soon returned informing me, that in coasting the side of the river, they had discovered one in a place intirely covered with reeds; that each time it rose, they had heard it distinctly, and had fired at it several times, in order to frighten, and make it shift its situation; that probably by the next morning it  
might



might be in a place more favorable to our designs ; they had met likewise with twenty buffalos, but had not killed any.

The eleventh, at night, we were visited by lions, hyænas and jackals, which kept us on the watch 'till two o'clock in the morning ; the smell of our fresh meat and cookery, no doubt, had attracted them. We had much trouble with our horses, particularly that I bought of Mr. Mulder, in the canton of Auteniquas ; the howling of the wild beasts frightened him so much, that we were obliged to put clogs on each leg, and confine his head with a strap, to prevent his beating himself to pieces.

Tranquillity returned with the day, when we finished cutting up the Coudous ; after which we packed our baggage.— I had sent a man the night before to view *Koks-Kraal*, which was the rendezvous appointed

appointed for my deputies, who had been gone but three days, so that I could not expect them for some time.

From the report of my messenger, I judged we might encamp very commodiously at this place, and the first view of that pleasing spot convinced me I was not mistaken. We reached it in three hours, and found an inclosure of about fifty feet square, formed by a hedge of dry branches and thorns; it was broken in some places, which we repaired in the course of the day. This enclosure was a fortunate circumstance, as it sheltered our beasts; and the spot was in so elevated a situation, that it overlooked all the environs.

On one side was a river, at only the distance of four hundred paces, which supplied us with plenty of water. This was not only a place of security from wild beasts, but also, in some measure, from the Caffres,

Caffrees, who being spread about the country, and uninformed of my pacific intentions, might, if we had been quite exposed, have fallen upon us unawares; but I was most apprehensive of my ambassador, who knowing perfectly the number of men I had with me, and informed of the precise spot for our meeting, might corrupt my Hottentots, or betray and assassinate them on the road; then returning at the head of a numerous party, by one of those strokes too common in war, exterminate me and my people.

I shall not hide from my readers, that filled with the idea of selling my life as dear as possible, my terrors increased in proportion to the care I took to defend it; but after my deputies had been absent some time, I became easier, the danger seemed to diminish, and at length I was wholly familiarized to my situation.

I ordered my large tent to be erected beyond the fence, at one end of our inclosure, furrounding it with sham huts, as we had before contrived at the river *Klin-Vis*. At an angle opposite the tent we made a division for the horses, and another for the sheep and goats, near which I placed my small tent, determined to sleep there. We surrounded the whole so well with a fence of thorny bushes, that it was impossible any wild beasts could penetrate it, by which means my flocks were in perfect safety in our little fortrefs, which also, in time of need, might serve as a retreat for myself and people; and from whence we might have braved two thousand Caffres.

These arrangements satisfied my companions, who were yet more uneasy than myself. On the approach of night, at fifty paces distant, we made large fires, to scare the lions; we likewise had others nearer.

nearer. All these precautions answering perfectly well, I returned to my usual occupations, and my people regained their cheerfulness.

I saw flights of parroquets in the air, and shot one of a species that has not yet been described. It is about the size of the grey parrot of Guinea ; its colour green, of several shades ; on each leg, and on the joints of the wings, a bright aurora colour ; but I shall give a particular description of this in my history of birds.

During the day we were usually visited by considerable numbers of bavian monkeys, of the same species as my friend Kees ; these animals appeared astonished at seeing so many people, and yet more so, on perceiving one of their kind among us, who answered them in their own language. One day more than three hundred descended from a hill, which was  
on



on the side of our camp, and surrounded us, screaming *Gou-a-cou*, *Gou-a-cou*; the voice and appearance of Kees seeming to embolden them. They were not equal in size, some being much larger than others, but all of the same species; skipping and gamboling in a manner difficult to be described. An idea of these monkeys should not be formed from those who languish out a wearisome life of slavery in Europe; perishing by the kindness of the ladies, or poisoned by their ill-bestowed dainties. The heaviness of our atmosphere deadens their natural gaiety, and they frequently play anticks more from a dread of punishment, than from real humour.

A singularity that I have before remarked, fixed my attention; it was, that Kees, whom I held by the paw, though he appeared to know and answer his fellows, would by no means come near them; I pulled him forward, the strange animals  
(who

(who simply appeared to stand on their guard) waited my approach, with as much tranquillity as Kees shewed agitation and resistance. On a sudden he escaped, and ran to hide himself in my tent ; perhaps a fear that they would drag him with them, caused his uneasiness.

The other monkeys continued their antic gambols and screams for some time ; 'till tired with the noise, and weary of the sight, I fired my piece ; in an instant the dogs were at their heels. It was now really amusing to see the dexterity and quickness of their flight ; dispersing in every direction ; leaping from rock to rock, and disappearing with the rapidity of lightning.

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## CHAP. XXI.

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THE AUTHOR ENDEAVOURS TO DISCOVER SOME  
HIPPOPOTAMUSES — PART OF HIS PEOPLE  
PURSUED BY LIONS — OBSERVATIONS ON WILD  
BEASTS.

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ON the thirteenth day of the month  
I was awakened by a bird, whose  
note was extremely loud and distinct,  
but resembled nothing I had ever before  
heard. I rose immediately, and got very  
near without its discovering me; but be-  
ing hardly day light, I could not distin-  
guish it among the thick branches on  
which

which it was perched, and, in the end, had the misfortune to lose it. From its flight I took it for the *Crapaud Volant* (Flying Toad) I was not mistaken, for some days after I shot several.

This bird is very different from the *Crapaud Volant* of Europe, whose note is only a plaintive cry, like the ground toad, which has probably procured it this name: that of Africa warbles very articulately, and in a manner not to be imitated; continuing for hours after sun-set, and sometimes all night. This difference, joined to its outward texture, proves it of another species.

I killed several birds, among others a small kind of *Barbu*, hitherto unknown; and a cuckoo, which I named the cryer, as his piercing note may be heard at a great distance, but does not at all resemble that of our European cuckoo; its plumage is likewise very different.

I also found in this canton, several of the golden cuckoos, described by Buffon, by the name of *Coucou Vert Doré*, of the Cape; this bird is, without dispute, the most beautiful of its kind, white, green and gold, enrich its plumage; perched on the highest trees, it warbles continually, with varied modulation, the syllables, *Di Di Didric*, as distinctly as I have written them, for which reason I named it the *Didric*.

As I was amusing myself in pursuing some small birds, I discovered a flight of crows and vultures, rising and circling in the air, and making a violent noise.— When I had arrived nearly under them, I discovered the remains of a buffalo, that had been devoured by a lion, apparently about twenty-four hours since. From the aspect of the field of battle, I judged the combat to have been terrible; the ground was beaten, and in places torn up;  
I could



I could discover by the marks, how many times the buffalo had fallen; and in places lay tufts of the lion's hair, which his opponent had torn off with his feet or horns.

I was not far from the river, where I discovered fresh tracks of the Hippopotamus; I followed them, and discovered where they had regained the water. — Though very attentive, I could hear no noise; the bushes and reeds prevented my reaching the edge of the river, and completely hid the animals.

It was near dinner time, I was fatigued and fasting; the Crapaud Volant and other birds had led me a good distance. — I was returning to my camp the nearest way, consulting the sun and directing my course eastward; when I was startled by a gun that was fired almost close to me; as it was totally unexpected. I knew it  
cc 3 must

must proceed from some of my men, and ran to the spot, where I found one of the worst marksmen wasting my powder. He informed me he had been watching a Hippopotamus ever since day-break; that he had just fired, and no doubt killed it. An awkward hand may sometimes have a fortunate stroke, and though I knew the animal would not rise under a full quarter of an hour, I determined to wait, sending the Hottentot for part of my men, and some provision. After an hour and half's impatient waiting, my people arrived; but our prey had not yet made its appearance. The Hottentot assured me, that after he had fired the animal plunged into the water, and that he had remarked quantities of blood on the surface; he added, as the current was very strong, the Hippopotamus might have been carried along with the stream, which I thought possible; my man therefore departed, in hopes of meeting it lower down the river, while

while I returned to the camp, to prepare my birds.

About one o'clock we had a dreadful storm, the thunder fell several times in the forest that bordered the mountains. One of my men returned with a gazell he had shot. The Hottentot who fired at the Hippopotamus came home late, without having seen any more of it, and was obliged to meet the sarcasms of my Hottentot wits, who tried to persuade him he had fired at a *Legouane* (a kind of large lizard, common in the rivers of Africa.) Pleasantries at length gave way to abuse, and my epigramists were on the point of concluding by a boxing bout.—With a word I ended the dispute, and silenced the orators.

On the fourteenth the rain fell abundantly in the night, and extinguished our fires, so that we could not re-light them.

The dogs made such a perpetual barking, that it was impossible to sleep; notwithstanding we heard no wild beasts. I have before observed, that on rainy nights, the lion, tiger and hyæna never make a noise, which redoubles the danger; for they continue ranging, and fall unawares on their prey. What added to the fright, occasioned by a knowledge of this circumstance, was, that the damp prevented the dogs from scenting. My men were so aware of the danger, that when the rain had extinguished the fires, it was with the utmost difficulty they could be persuaded to try to light them.

It must be allowed, that stormy nights in the African deserts, present a powerful image of desolation and horror, and involuntarily strike the mind with terror. When these deluges fall, they soon overflow and run through tents, mats, and every thing in their passage; the repeated  
flashes

flashes of lightning, giving twenty times in a minute fearful glances of flaming light, instantly contrasted by the most dreadful obscurity. The continued and almost deafening claps of thunder resounding from all parts, and meeting with horrible crash, echo from mountain to mountain, multiplying the horrors of the scene. The moans of domestic animals, moments of dismal silence, all concur to render these times truly dreadful. The danger of attack from wild beasts adds to the general panic, which only the return of light, and subsiding of the storm, can dispel.

Day broke, but it was gloomy, and charged with clouds, the rain falling at intervals; I was not disposed to go out, but employed myself in taking a review of my birds, and recently-prepared collection. I had enough to fill a chest, which I did with great care, caulking and lining



lining it in my usual manner, to prevent the intrusion of insects. On a general recapitulation of those I now possessed, and those I had sent from the country of Auteniquas, I found the number amounted to about seven hundred.

Towards four o'clock in the afternoon the sky cleared, which revived our fainting courage, and we returned to our accustomed exercises. I sometimes made my Hottentots shoot at a mark, this always gave them great pleasure, which I frequently indulged; as by these means they greatly improved, and I had remarked from the beginning, that their courage augmented with their skill; while they received as a favor, what I granted in a political view, for the safety of my caravan.

The prize was usually a portion of tobacco; a bottle stuck against a rock served  
for

for a mark, and the conditions required to break it at a distance of two hundred and fifty feet. It was one named PIR who succeeded this time, on the fifty-fourth shot. I gave him the prize, which he generously shared with his companions. The balls were not lost by this amusement, as we ever found them near the foot of the rock.

The setting sun seemed to promise a fine morning, I determined therefore to hunt the Hippopotamus, and for that purpose sent several of my men to the banks of the river, to observe if they could discover any. We cleaned all our fire-arms, and cast large balls, in which (according to the African custom) I put an eighth part of pewter; the balls by this means penetrate farther, as they do not flatten against the bones.

After

After the evening fires were kindled (a task which was not easily accomplished, as the ground was damp, and the wood wet.) I regaled my men with tea, and I am certain, that over one ounce they poured at least fifty pints of boiling water.

The evening was one of the most amusing we had yet past ; ever some joke, pun, or pleasant tale, from these good folks, who seated round the fire, endeavoured to amuse me, and fix my attention, by giving proofs of attachment and cordiality.

Above all, the question was, who should shew the most prowess the next day, in chase of the Hippopotamus ; all wished to be there, and this made it difficult to settle the party to the general satisfaction. I wished some of my men to distribute themselves about the country, to shoot  
gazells,

gazells, on which I built more for provision than on the Hippopotamuses, particularly as the edge of the river was so covered with reeds, bushes and trees, that it was difficult to find them.

As night advanced I was surprized the men I sent on discovery were not returned; I ordered three guns to be fired; near half an hour passed without any answer, when at intervals of four or five minutes, we distinguished three reports, which made us judge they were pointed at an Hippopotamus. In a quarter of an hour we heard three more discharges; but the sound did not appear so distant as before. From time to time the firing continued, each report sounding nearer, which persuaded us the unhappy men were flying from some wild beast. I used my utmost speed to join them, directed by the guns; at length they appeared, alarmed and trembling, but had seen nothing; though  
from

from the uneasiness of the two dogs they had with them, they were convinced some lions pursued their steps. The dogs, as we afterwards found had not deceived them.

The Hottentots informed me they had heard the grunting of an Hippopotamus, rather above the spot, where they had laid wait; this information pleased me, but we wanted rest, and returned to the camp.

About half past eleven, the roaring of a lion, at a very small distance, struck my ear, which was immediately answered by another of the same species, but considerably further off; but this last joined the other in a quarter of an hour, and together they kept ranging round the camp. We were soon prepared for them, and making a general discharge of our pieces, intimidated, and forced the animals to fly. I had no doubt they were the same that had followed



followed my men the night before, who certainly owed their safety to the information given by the dogs.

It would be difficult to express how very fearful the boldest dog is of a Lion, and it is easy during the night, to discover by his countenance, what species of wild beast is near. If a Lion, the dog, without stirring, begins to howl fearfully, and experiencing the greatest uneasiness, creeps towards the human species, and caressing him, seems to demand protection. The other domestic animals are not less agitated, all rising, none attempting to sleep. The oxen lowing in an under melancholy tone; Horses paw and suffer great agitation; the Goats, likewise, shew their alarm, and the sheep pressed one against another, form an immovable mass——Man alone, proud and sanguine, seizes his weapon, and palpitating with impatience, fights to meet his victim.

On

On these occasions, the alarm of Kees was very striking ; fearful of our guns as of the approach of the Lion, the slightest movement made him tremble ; moaning as if sick, he kept close by my side, dragging after me, as though overpowered with deadly weakness. The Cock alone appeared astonished at the common agitation, a Spar-Hawk would have thrown him into consternation, and he dreaded the smell of a Pole-Cat more than all the Lions of Africa. Thus it is, that each has a dreaded enemy, man only, dares all, fears none, except his own species.

We sometimes see wild animals of the same kind fighting, but love is the only passion that disunites them, and provokes their momentary quarrels, which are presently succeeded by peace. Among domestic animals, hatred is more durable ; is this an effect of tuition or example?

I must return to the different ways by which danger is announced, and may without vanity affirm, that no one can more truly delineate them, as all the compilations of speculative eloquence can never equal observations, so often repeated on that extensive theatre, the deserts of Africa.

If an Hyæna approaches, the dog will pursue it within a certain distance, without any particular symptoms of fear. The Ox continues laying on the earth without alarm, except it is a young beast, that has never before heard that dangerous animal; the Horse remains without any apparent fear. If Jackals (a kind of Foxes) come near, the dogs pursue them with eagerness to a prodigious distance, unless they scent Lions or Hyænas by the way, in which case they return as quick as possible.

The Hottentots pretend that the Jackal is the spy of other beasts, that he comes

to excite and provoke the dogs to follow him, that the Lion or Hyæna may have the better opportunity to seize on their prey, which they share amicably with him, in recompense for the service performed.

What I have seen may in some measure lead to this assertion, which is most likely exaggerated ; it is certain that as soon as the Jackals begin their concert, the Lion or Hyæna is to be expected ; these, however, will not shew themselves unless the dogs are engaged. We ever kept two tied up, to bark in the absence of the rest, and prevent the approach of the Hyæna, who [fears fire less than the Lion.

CHAP.

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## C H A P. XXI.

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KILLS A HIPPOPOTAMUS — ACCOUNT OF THAT  
ANIMAL — A VULGAR ERROR CONTRADICTED  
RESPECTING THE EAGLE.

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ON the morrow, which was the fifteenth, we were all on foot at day break, I sent three men to hunt for Buffaloes, Gazells, Gnous, and Coudous; then took four of my best marksmen with three Hottentots to carry my large carbine, ammunition, and some dried provisions, in case we should be obliged to pass



the day in the field, and leaving the rest of my people with Swanepoel to take care of the camp, we departed

In coasting the river, we approached the banks as near as possible, keeping a profound silence. We walked three hours in this manner, without making any discovery, but at length saw the foot marks of a Hippopotamus, and followed the track for an hour and half, which conducted us to the spot from whence it took to the water. On our separating to watch along the banks, the man who was farthest off fired his piece, but his shot did not take effect.

We did not wait long before it rose again to breathe, with the head intirely out of the water ; the animal having now gained the opposite shore of the river, which was very wide, two of my people swam over, in hopes to oblige it at least to keep the middle, if they could not get it nearer ;

nearer ; thus far the scheme answered, but the Hippopotamus shewed so much distrust, hardly putting its nose out of the water, and changing its situation every moment, never coming up in the same place, and replunging so suddenly, that it was impossible to take any certain aim, having already fired thirty times without effect.

The Hottentots that passed the river had no guns, the cunning animal remarked the fire did not come from that side, and therefore kept pretty near the shore.

I now ordered Pit (the man who won the last prize) to pass the river out of sight of the Hippopotamus, and join his companions, but not to fire without being sure of his mark ; and he executed these orders very punctually.

The animal thinking itself safe on the opposite side, shewed little distrust, lifting

its head sometimes entirely out of the water. Pit watched his opportunity so well on this occasion, and directed his shot with such precision, that I made no doubt but the animal was severely wounded, by its rearing the major part of its body out of the water, and struggling violently. I immediately lodged a ball in the breast, on which it disappeared for twenty minutes, after which we perceived it dead, and driving with the current ; some of my people now plunged into the river and conducted it to shore.

I shall not attempt to paint the general joy, on seeing this monstrous animal in our possession, but our motives were very different ; gluttony presented it to my people as a dainty, on which they were soon to gorge ; while curiosity offered it to me as an interesting object of Natural History, and which I yet knew only from books and engravings.

The

The legs of the Hippopotamus are short in proportion to its size, which was an advantage to us, as we could roll it on the ground like a German-tun, being equally round. I could not for a long time help admiring and examining this enormous beast; it was a female; the ball from Pit had taken place above the left eye, and stuck in the jaw; I much doubt whether that wound would have been mortal. My shot had entered the shoulder, perforated the lungs, and broke a rib.

This animal measured, from the tip of the nose to the tail, ten feet seven inches, and eight feet eleven inches in circumference, its bent tusks were more than five inches long, and one in diameter in the thickest part, which made me conjecture it was young; in the stomach were leaves and reeds grossly chewed, likewise small branches of the size of a goose-quill, which appeared only a little flattened, and I have

remarked that large animals, such as the Elephant and Rhinoceros masticate their food very little.

All engravings of the Hippopotamus are very imperfect, the best I know of, is (without contradiction) that of Mr. Allaman, Professor of Physic, at Leyden, which was engraved from drawings he received from Mr. Gordon. In my description of animals I shall have one copied that I drew myself, and which I hope will satisfy the naturalist.

I sent a Hottentot to the camp, with orders to bring the next morning two sets of oxen, to carry home our prize, and as it was late, we chose a large tree, under which we determined to pass the night. It was near the river, and within sight of the animal, which we durst not quit for fear of its being visited by carnivorous beasts; we were surrounded by trees, which  
rendered



rendered our situation critical, as we might have been surpris'd; but by lighting large fires, and at stated intervals discharging our pieces, we pass'd the night in safety, though it was not possible to sleep for gnats, who, attracted by the neighbourhood of the water, and the coolness of the spot we had chosen, swarmed round us by myriads; one of my men who slept, had his face so much stung and swelled that he was hardly to be known.

I took care to have a foot of the Hippopotamus prepared in the same manner as that of the first Elephant I had killed, five months before, in my way to *Ange-Kloof*.

The foot (which had been dressing all night) was served up for my breakfast, and I thought it superior to the Elephant's, never having eat any thing with greater satisfaction.

Though

Though the Hippopotamus is extremely fat, it is not of so disgusting a quality, as that of other animals; my people melted and sipped it by porringers full, like broth; they likewise anointed themselves in such a manner, that they appeared as if varnished all over; their excess in eating and greasing having made their skins tighten and shine to a degree which proved they had not been very frugal in the use of it.

I had forgot to send for a horse, but Swanepoel thought for me; the heat was extreme, and we were six good leagues from the camp. I ordered the Hippopotamus to be fastened to a chain, to which we harnessed twelve oxen. While we continued our way by the river side, they experienced great difficulty and fatigue from the roughness of the road, and from trees that perpetually intercepted our passage, but as soon as we reached the plain, which was covered with high grass, I caused the oxen  
to

to be changed, and seeing the second set went on well, mounted my horse and made the best of my way to the camp. Gager, my favorite dog, who never quitted me in all my parties, was this time obliged to lag behind with the Hottentots, who arrived about five o'clock in the evening.

The three Hottentots I had sent in search of game, also returned fortunate, having killed two Gnous and three Gazells, which abundantly supplied us with provisions; but the excessive heat, and dragging the Hippopotamus on the ground, had bruised it so much, that some of the best part began to spoil, which obliged us to pass the night in cutting up and salting a part of it, which we put in the skins of the Gnous my men had killed, reserving the best pieces to pack in a brandy barrel, having first secured the liquor in pitchers, My men did not let slip this opportunity to get very drunk.

The

The following night our two lions returned, accompanied by several hyænas and jackals. One of the hyænas was bold enough to pass our fires, and approach us; on which a Hottentot fired, but missed her. The jackals too came into our camp; and had it not been for our dogs, we must have shared our provisions with them.

The next day my men employed themselves in cutting the skin off the Hippopotamus, to make what, in this country, the call *Chanboc*, which are whips, used to drive the oxen. They are like those used in Europe, but much larger and longer. The skin, which in some parts is two inches thick, is cut into proper lengths, of two inches wide, which renders it an exact square; they make each piece about six feet long, tie a weight to one end, hang it up to dry, and afterwards beat and round it with a mallet, making it  
gradually

gradually smaller towards one end. They form less ones for horses, which have the peculiar advantage over those of Europe of never breaking, especially if sometimes rubbed with a little oil.

They make the same use of the skins of the Rhinoceros; these indeed are preferred by the inhabitants of the Cape, for though not so strong, they receive a finer polish, being almost as transparent as horn; but the Colonists, preferring utility to beauty, ever use the former. These whips are dear, as neither of the animals from which they are made, are now to be procured in the Colonies; and, frequently, those who go further in search of them, are disappointed, by not meeting with any.

The skin of these animals is not fit for any other use; it is much like that of the hog, except in thickness; indeed the  
Hippo-



Hippopotamus, in some measure, resembles that animal ; there is little difference in the fat, and if it could be salted with requisite precaution, it would be preferred ; especially as it is reckoned extremely salutary. At the Cape, for instance, the fat is thought so wholesome, that they affirm, if it is taken in regular portions, it will radically cure all disorders of the breast. I kept some by me that was not thicker than the oil of olives in the coldest weather.

The tusks of the Hippopotamus are of a superior quality to ivory ; the latter growing yellow by time, while the former preserves its original purity and whiteness ; no wonder therefore, that the Europeans make them so great an object of traffic, particularly the French, as by the aid of art they supplant nature, and figure admirably in the mouth of a pretty woman.

My

My Hottentots reckoned on a second hunt of the Hippopotamus, their feasting on the first being yet fresh in their memories; but I found we had provision enough, and that our time might be more usefully employed, or at least, that we might vary our occupations, and therefore determined to try fishing.

With some difficulty I found a place on the river proper for my net; our success was not great, we only caught about twenty fish, of two or three kinds, the longest of which was not above six inches; but fried in the fat of the Hippopotamus they were excellent.

This fishing was not considerable enough to interest us, particularly as the approach to the river was rather difficult and disagreeable, we therefore drew out our net. While they were folding it, a bird approach-  
ed

ed us without any sign of fear, uttering a shrill cry.

My men said it was a bird that discovers honey, and I observed it bore a great analogy to one, known to ornithologists, by the name of the *Coucou Indicateur* (Indicative Cuckoo;) but this was much larger than the bird already known to me. The Hottentots are very fond of it, on account of the service it renders them, they therefore begged me to spare its life; but as it was of a new species, which I wished to join to my collection, I could not resist the inclination of shooting it.

I found it was of the species of Indicative Cuckoos already known, but larger, with some difference in the plumage.— Some time after I killed three birds of this kind, who differed from each other, though of the same species.

They

They are well known to the natives of Africa, who hold them in great respect; they live entirely on honey and wax, which they involuntarily discover. The naturalists place this bird (though I know not why) among the cuckoos, which it only resembles in the formation of its feet; being quite different in every other respect.

I perhaps may run the risk of being censured by possessors of scientific cabinets; but I cannot avoid saying, that large volumes are nothing compared with the great book of nature; and though an error may have been strengthened by a hundred eloquent pens, it is, notwithstanding, yet an error.

This bird has no more similarity to the cuckoo than the wood-pecker, *barbus*, paroquet, and a number of others, whose feet are alike. If it must be ranged in a

E E

known

known class, it appertains more to the barbus, which it most resembles.

In the stomach of this bird I found nothing but wax, and some honey, not the least appearance of any insects. The skin is thick, and of so close a texture, that even when fresh, it can hardly be pierced with a pin ; which I consider as one of nature's admirable precautions, for having destined this bird to dispute its subsistence with the most ingenious of insects, she has also afforded a covering which the sting cannot penetrate.

It builds its nest in the hollows of trees, climbing like the wood-pecker, and sits upon its own eggs ; this little account of its manners is sufficient to separate it totally from the cuckoo, and distinguish it as a different kind.

My



My Hottentot Klaas, in returning from hunting, brought an eagle which he had killed, it was of a species unknown to me, and undescribed by any author ; I recompenced him, and gave him likewise a double quantity of tobacco ; not that I was more generous to Klaas on this occasion than I should have been to another, though I preferred him to the rest, but I wished to excite, in my people, a desire of making discoveries.

This bird was extremely black, and seemed to resemble the vulture as much as the eagle, though different in some instances. Hunger changes the eagle into a vulture, that is to say, when distressed for food it will feed on putrified carrion. It is a vulgar error, that this bird only subsists by preying on others ; for when I caused the offal of animals we had killed to be spread about, to attract carnivorous birds,

eagles, as well as others, profited by the carnage.

I here ask pardon of the ancient and modern poets, for thus degrading the nature of this noble king of birds; for I must call it degrading, to see this favorite bird of Jove feeding on the scattered remains of infected carrion.

CHAP.

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## CHAP. XXII.

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VISIT OF THE GONAQUAIS—ARE ENTERTAINED  
BY THE AUTHOR—MEETS WITH NARINA—  
DEPARTURE OF THE HOORD:

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ON the eighteenth we passed great part of the night in firing our pieces, to drive away the lions, who continued to visit us, as did also the voracious hyænas, which prevented my sleeping 'till very late. When I awoke in the morning I was much surprised to find myself surrounded by twenty Gonaquias. But this visit deserves the most ample description, from which

the reader may form a better judgment of these savages, than by all the laboured discourses of philosophy.

The chief approached first, to make his compliments; the women followed, decorated to the utmost, fresh greased, and powdered with *Bougheu* (or Bucku;) this is a red dust, made from a root of that name, with which they powder their skins after being greased, and which is tolerably agreeable; in addition to this, their faces were all painted in a hundred different forms. Each made me a present—one gave me ostriches eggs, another a young lamb, others offered me milk in baskets, a circumstance that astonished me.—“What!” exclaimed I, “milk in baskets!” I recollected at that moment the disgusting copper vessels, which some time since were used for milk in Paris, ’till they were forbid by the wisdom of the police; and in comparing them with those of the Gonaquais,

naquais, I could not help reflecting, how often a powerful city, with all its arts, palaces and great men, is distanced by the simple productions of those it may despise.

These baskets are very pretty, and fabricated with reeds, so closely interwoven, that they will hold water, and were afterwards of much service to me for that use; the Gonaquai chief informed me they were made by the Caffrees, from whom they had procured them.

The chief, who was named Haabas, presented me with a fine plume of ostrich feathers; and to shew how much I honoured his present, I took out those that were in my hat, and put his in the place. Satisfaction now marked the features of the good old man, and his words and gestures plainly evinced how much he was pleased with the compliment.



It was now time to shew I was neither unmindful nor ungrateful for these favors; I therefore began, by presenting him with several pounds of tobacco; this procured me, at a small expence, a scene of the most interesting nature. Haabas, by a sign, assembled all his people, who forming a circle, squatted down on the ground; and I saw, with infinite satisfaction, the chief distribute the tobacco among them, reserving only an equal portion for himself.

The spirit of equity which shone so brightly in this good man, excited my admiration; and I added to my former present (for his own use) a knife, a steel, a box of tinder, and a necklace of large glass beads. To the women I gave necklaces, and brass wire for bracelets.

In the midst of these reciprocal offerings of friendship, I remarked a young girl of  
about

about sixteen, who shewed less eagerness to partake of the ornaments I bestowed on her companions, than to consider my person ; she examined me with such marked attention, that I drew near, to satisfy her curiosity. Her figure was charming, her teeth beautifully white, her height and shape, elegant and easy, and might have served as a model for the pencil of Albane ; in short, she was the youngest sister of the graces, under the figure of a female Hot-tentot.

The force of beauty is universal, 'tis a sovereign whose power is unlimited. I felt by the prodigality of my presents, that I paid some deference to its power. The young savage and myself were soon acquainted. I gave her a girdle, bracelets, and a necklace of small white beads, which appeared to delight her ; I then took a red handkerchief from my neck, with which she bound her head, in this dress she was charming ;

charming! I took pleasure in decorating her, which finished, she asked me for ornaments for her sister, who had remained at home; she pointed out to me her mother, told me she had no father. Nothing could equal the pleasure I took in seeing her, except it was in hearing her speak, for I was so charmed with her answers, that I fatigued her with interrogations. I asked her to stay with me, making her all sorts of promises; but when I spoke of carrying her to my country, where women I told her, were all queens, commanding Hoords of slaves; she rejected my proposal, and even gave marks of impatience and ill-humour. A monarch could not have prevailed on her to quit her Hoord and family, the bare idea inspired her with melancholy, to banish which, I changed the subject, and desired her to bring her sister, which she promised to do. Then fixing her eyes on a chair, shewed me a knife that laid there: I presented her with it; this she carried to her mother.

She was fully employed with her new decorations ; examining her arms, feet, necklace and girdle, twenty times feeling her head, and adjusting her handkerchief, with which she appeared much pleased. I set my glass before her, she viewed herself very attentively, and even with complacency, shewing by her gestures how much she was satisfied, not particularly with her person, but her ornaments.

On her departure from the Hoord in the morning, to visit me, her cheeks had been rubbed with grease and soot ; I made her wash it off, but could never persuade her that these decorations diminished rather than increased her beauty, and whatever skill I used in my persuasions, she still remained as obstinately attached to her filthy grease, as, in our climates, the ladies are to rouge and pastes ; which though not less disgusting are more pernicious.

My

My charming pupil desired me to give her my looking-glass, I consented; she made good use of the empire her gentleness had acquired, to ask for all that gave her pleasure, notwithstanding I was obliged to deny her several things that were particularly useful to me, and might have been dangerous to her. My knee buckles had tempted her—the most sparkling gems were not so brilliant as her expressive eyes. I should have been delighted to have given them. How much did I wish at that moment for the most miserable fastenings to supply this useless luxury! unhappily they were the only pair I possessed—I made her comprehend that the buckles were absolutely necessary to me, from which moment she never named them.

I found her name difficult to pronounce, disagreeable to the ear, and inapplicable to my ideas, I therefore re-named her *Narina*, which in the Hottentot language signifies



a flower, desiring her to retain this name for my sake. She promised to keep it as long as she lived, in remembrance of me, and in testimony of her love; a sentiment that was no longer a stranger to her heart; this was truly painted in her gentle undorned language, which powerfully shewed how strong the first impressions of nature are, and that even in the deserts of Africa there is no happiness without an alloy.

I ordered a sheep to be killed, and a good quantity of the Hippopotamus to be dressed, to regale our visitors, who gave into the excess of gaiety; every one danced, my Hottentots not to be out-done in gallantry, entertained them with music, sounding the *Goura*, the *Joum-Joum*, and the *Rabouquin*, nor was the *Jews-Harp* forgotten; this new instrument delighted our visitors. Narina, who thought (like all other pretty women) that she was capable of every thing, tried to play; to carry the  
likeness

likeness still farther, was soon tired of her lesson, and threw the instrument from her, calling it detestable.

The day passed in mirth and feasting ; my men shared their brandy (besides what I had given myself) among our visitors. I saw with pleasure that Narina could not drink ; her sobriety delighted me—I detest liquors myself, and am amazed how women (particularly) can accustom themselves to the most disgusting of all poisons.

I reminded my people early of gathering wood for fires, which was soon performed ; the Gonaquais were of the party, and amply provided for their own use. I permitted them to remain all night, assigning them a spot at some distance from the camp. Night approaching our fires were kindled, and I regaled my people with tea and coffee. Narina liked tea, but the colour of coffee disgusted her ; I covered her eyes therefore

therefore with my hand, and got her to drink half a dish; she thought it good, but still preferred tea, drinking a great quantity which much amazed me, for notwithstanding her assertion, that she liked it, she seemed to drink the tea in haste, in order to reach the sugar at the bottom.

After this frugal meal they returned to dancing 'till midnight, when fatigue obliged them to retire to rest.

I had for some time slept in my waggon to avoid the night-dews, I therefore accommodated the Gonaquai chief with my tent. The reader no doubt supposes that Narina was not among those who were excluded my camp. She had no idea of quitting her friend, 'till I pointed out her mother and companions who were about to depart, when I received the adieu of the gentle Narina.

I sent two of my people armed to pass the night with the Gonaquais, and defend them, should any carnivorous beasts approach; when they were departed I ordered the rest of my people to rest.

I could not sleep myself, all that had passed since the arrival of the Gonaquais was painted on my imagination in new and pleasing colours; the manners of these people were so pure, simple and interesting, and so different from the account given by some romantic travellers. My conversation with Haabas and Narina, particularly pleased me, and made me think the time mis-spent in their absence, and the hours too rapid in their company.

In the morning I visited the camp of the Gonaquais, it was just day break, they all slept profoundly, rolled up in their Kroses, (these are cloaks, made of the skins of different animals, and serve for a covering  
both

both day and night) Narina was with her mother, on a mat I had given them; the seven other women were huddled together, and formed a laughable group; neither heads or feet were to be seen, but entirely concealed under their coverings. I bid them good morrow by firing my piece; on the instant their heads popped up, and exhibited the most comical picture imaginable; notwithstanding this noise some did not awake, which is not to be wondered at, as the sleep of the Hottentots is almost lethargic. I gave them time to recover their surprise, wishing to shoot some game before the heat of the day:

I returned about ten o'clock with some birds, and among others a Gobe Mouch, (Fly Catcher.) This charming bird is of a fine red, with a long tail, its head ornamented with a beautiful tuft of the same colour with the body, but brighter; the long feathers in the tail gave it an air of  
VOL. I. F f dignity;



dignity ; this the female of the same species does not possess, nor does the male bird keep this distinction longer than pairing time, which lasts about three months, soon after which these two feathers drop, nothing then distinguishes it from the hen, but the darker shades of its plumage.

This bird must not be mistaken for one of the same species, described by Buffon, and Brisson, by the name of the tufted or long-tailed fly-catcher of the Cape ; for this bird is not found there. That belongs to the Indies, and particularly to the Isle of Ceylon, and is very different from mine ; the characters that particularly distinguish them will be given in my Ornithology, and I can only say before hand, that the birds described by that name, one of which is near white, the other red, and which are given as different species, are absolutely the same, and that the variety of colours arise from the difference of the seasons, which

- any

any one may be convinced of, by examining one I have in my cabinet, who is immediately between the two states, and shews clearly the progression from white to red.

That I had just shot never experiences that change, which is enough to distinguish and rank it in a different class.

After carrying home my birds, I returned to the settlement of my visitors; the men only were there, the women, I was informed, were gone to bathe. Curious to see this ceremony, I went to the river; their voices and laughter soon led me to the spot; I glided between the trees, and arrived on the banks without being seen. They were all swimming, playing and diving with admirable dexterity.

After having for some time observed the swimmers, I fired my gun, and presented

F f 2

myself

myself before them ; they instantly plunged into the water, shewing only the tip of their noses. I seated myself on their habiliments, which were put together in a heap, tantalizing them, by holding these up, and inviting them to come and dress themselves. The mother of Narina laughed at the distress of her companions very heartily ; she had quitted the water before my arrival, and was seated under a tree, waiting for the rest.

For a long time they intreated me to go, but I was deaf to their sollicitation. At length they thought of a scheme, which was executed with a skill that astonished me. They knew of my partiality for Narina ; her mother, therefore, threw her kros and apron to her, and she dressed herself in the water ; then coming to me, with an air of supplicating tenderness, entreated me to retire, and give her companions time to dress. I pretended unwillingness, but

but taking my hand, she succeeded, by half forcing me out of sight ; at the same time calling to her friends to make haste and dress.

We then continued our way to the tent, Narina playing with me by the way, with as much freedom as if I had been her brother, or one of her companions ; sometimes running and leaping over bushes, brooks and pits, that intercepted her passage. Being young and inured to fatigue, I might have set our European Herculeses at defiance ; but whether the remains of gallantry made me exert but half my strength in opposition to Narina, or that she had greater skill and agility, I cannot tell, but I was generally obliged to yield her the palm of victory. Sometimes, getting a little forward, she would challenge me to race with her, then darting along with amazing swiftness, she would bound over the paths, and gaining the different turnings  
of

of the wood, meet and surprise me in the passage.

The different birds that were flying about in the forest, obliged me often to use my gun; it was the only method I had to restrain the wildness of my young savage; nothing could equal the pleasure she took in seeing me fire.

In our way I shot twenty birds, and as I had no dog with me, Narina picked up the game. I had lost sight of my camp; the mirth and playfulness of my young companion having led me further than I intended: She concluded, however, with a retaliation for the trick I had served herself and companions, on the banks of the *Groot-Vis*.

In our walk we had again met with that river; a heron which I shot fell in the water, and was carried by the current



rent into the middle of the stream; I should have been particularly sorry to have lost it, having before taken great pains to procure one, which was spoiled by the negligence of my people.

I was for immediately plunging into the river, but was very much incommoded by the reeds and grafs which grew on the banks; Narina, who saw my embarrassment, and how aukwardly I attempted to gain my bird, rushed into the river, and soon recovered the wished-for prize. I stood on the bank, earnestly inviting her to shore; but with a playful archness, she turned a deaf ear to all my entreaties, holding up the bird, and beckoning me to fetch it. To provoke me the more, she swam over to the opposite side, from whence she made game of my cowardice. I have before observed I could not swim.

When

When I found I could not obtain the bird, I seated myself on the bank of the river, and waited patiently for her return; on perceiving this, she swam back, diving by the way as she crossed. I presented my piece in jest, which did not in the least alarm her; she only the more obstinately refused me the heron.—We now took the direct road to the camp.

The female Gonaquais, whom we had left on the borders of the river, soon joined us; a bashful shame was marked on their features, and gave me cause to blush for having sported with their delicacy.

I gave my savages their breakfasts, my dissecting table was already set out, this was used for no other purpose, and with two chairs formed the whole furniture of my tent. I now began preparing my birds. This was an operation they knew nothing of, and at which they seemed surprised,

prised, nor could they conceive why I first killed the birds, and then endeavoured to restore them to their natural forms. I did not lose time in explaining to them the nature and value of the cabinets collected by the curious ; all this would have appeared too mysterious. But they would have been yet more astonished had I told them, that my travelling so far was principally for that purpose,

Narina once asked me if there were no birds in my country ; it would have been vain to have entered into long dissertations on a subject that would not have been understood ; besides, I was at that time busied in preparing a king-fisher, which I presented to my lively savage.

Haabas intreated me to place my camp near his Hoord, where I should find great variety of birds. He made me understand, that the distance was about two

G g

leagues ;

leagues ; and I promised to visit him in a few days.

They were now preparing to depart ; I made them all dine with me ; after which I gave Haabas a small quantity of tobacco, which much pleased him. Narina promised to bring me some milk, and to conduct her sister to the camp. At length, thoroughly satisfied with each other, and with often repeated adieus, the good people quitted me, I caused them to be accompanied by one of my people, whom I charged to learn the road, and to make some exchanges for sheep.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.









